

OCTOBER 1996

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Chin-kuo

O C H I N - K U O R I G A L S M

Learning Martial Arts at Shaolin



195

ISSN 1025-577X



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Works of Tchan Fou-li • Serene Dianchi Lake



GROSVENOR HOUSE
貴賓樓



會客室 Reception Room

Located on Mao Ming Road in the city centre, Jin Jiang Hotel is a well-known garden hotel with an area of about 30,000 sq. m., of which 10,000 sq. m. are greenbelt. The hotel is proud to have received about 300 state leaders and government heads since its opening. Its incomparably attentive service has won high praise from guests from both home and abroad.

The architecture and layout of the hotel are of striking characteristics. Set off by two gardens, the three European-style buildings look elegant and magnificent.

The 515 rooms of the hotel are well appointed, including the presidential suite with the unique padauk furniture inlaid with mother-in-pearl and the luxurious suites with modern artistic decoration. You will feel relaxed and comfortable in our spacious rooms with elegant and traditional furnishings.

Jin Jiang's food has a history dating back to the 30's and its Sichuan and Cantonese cuisine has become perfected after more than a half-century of experience. The hotel has presented many cooking and banquet serving performances in Singapore, Hong Kong and U.S.A. etc. The different style restaurants offer a wide range of dining choices and make the hotel a gourmet's paradise.

The Grosvenor House of the hotel has taken on a new look since the renovation. The decoration of its 28 suites has mixed European-style and modern fashion together. It ranks first among the luxurious hotels in Shanghai.

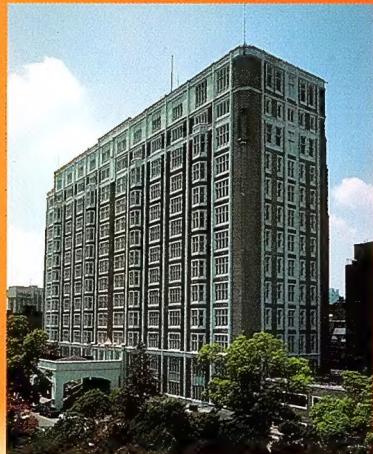
Apart from fine amenities, the hotel has a business centre and shopping arcade. The superb service, nice location and bustling night life will be the ideal choice for you to do business or travel in Shanghai.



餐廳 Restaurant



上海市錦江(集團)公司
SHANGHAI JIN JIANG (GROUP) CO.



外景 Exterior

錦江飯店座落在上海市中心的茂名路上，佔地3萬餘平方米，綠地面積為1萬餘平方米，是一家著名的花園式飯店。開業至今已接待了100多個國家的近300位國家元首和政府首腦，以及眾多的商賈巨富。周到完善的服務，贏得了中外賓客的一致讚譽。

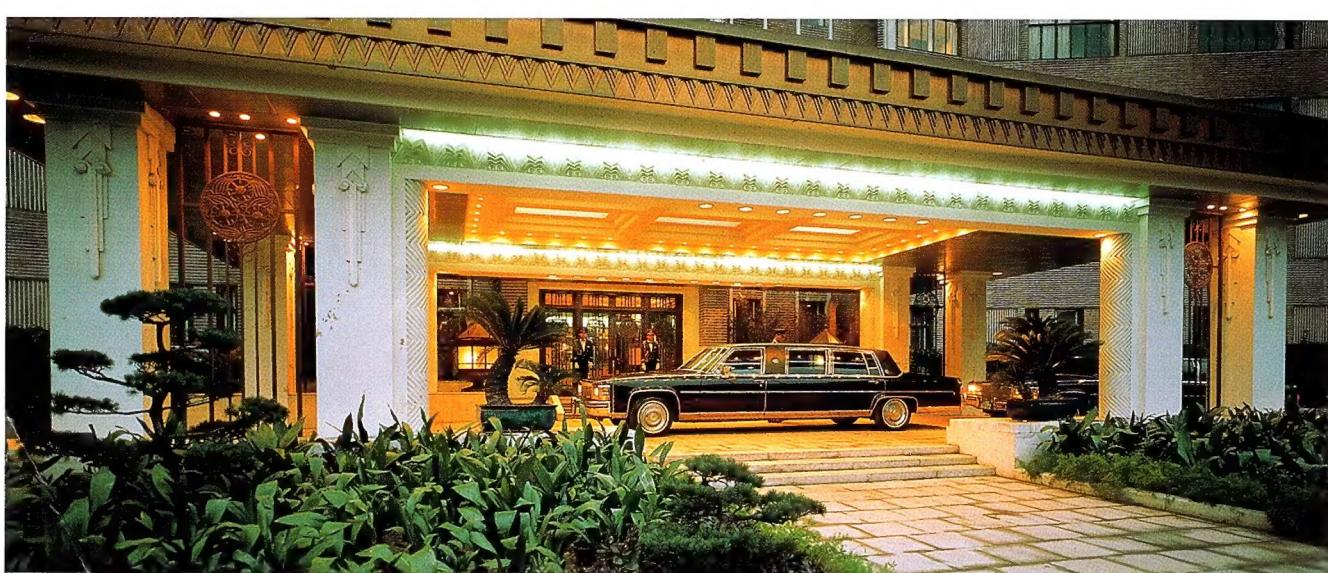
飯店的建築，佈局頗具特色。三幢歐美式建築協調排列，在二座花園的襯托下盡顯高貴典雅之氣。

515間（套）客房中有擺設堪稱一絕的螺鈿鑲嵌工藝家俱的總統套房，以及融合現代藝術手法進行佈置的豪華套房，標準客房體現了歐美建築寬暢舒適的特點，使您在無盡的享受中增添美感。

飯店餐飲始於三十年代，半個多世紀的鍛煉造就了一批川、廣菜的名廚。飯店曾多次應邀去美國、新加坡、香港等地進行烹飪和宴會服務表演。飯店的餐廳分佈在各幢大樓，其中以北樓為主，有羅馬式建築風格的餐廳、東方田園式的餐廳和宴會廳等。

值得驕傲的是，經過重新裝修改造的錦江貴賓樓，28套房間均採用歐式傳統與現代風格相結合的裝飾，並配以一流的硬件設施，成為上海豪華賓館之冠。

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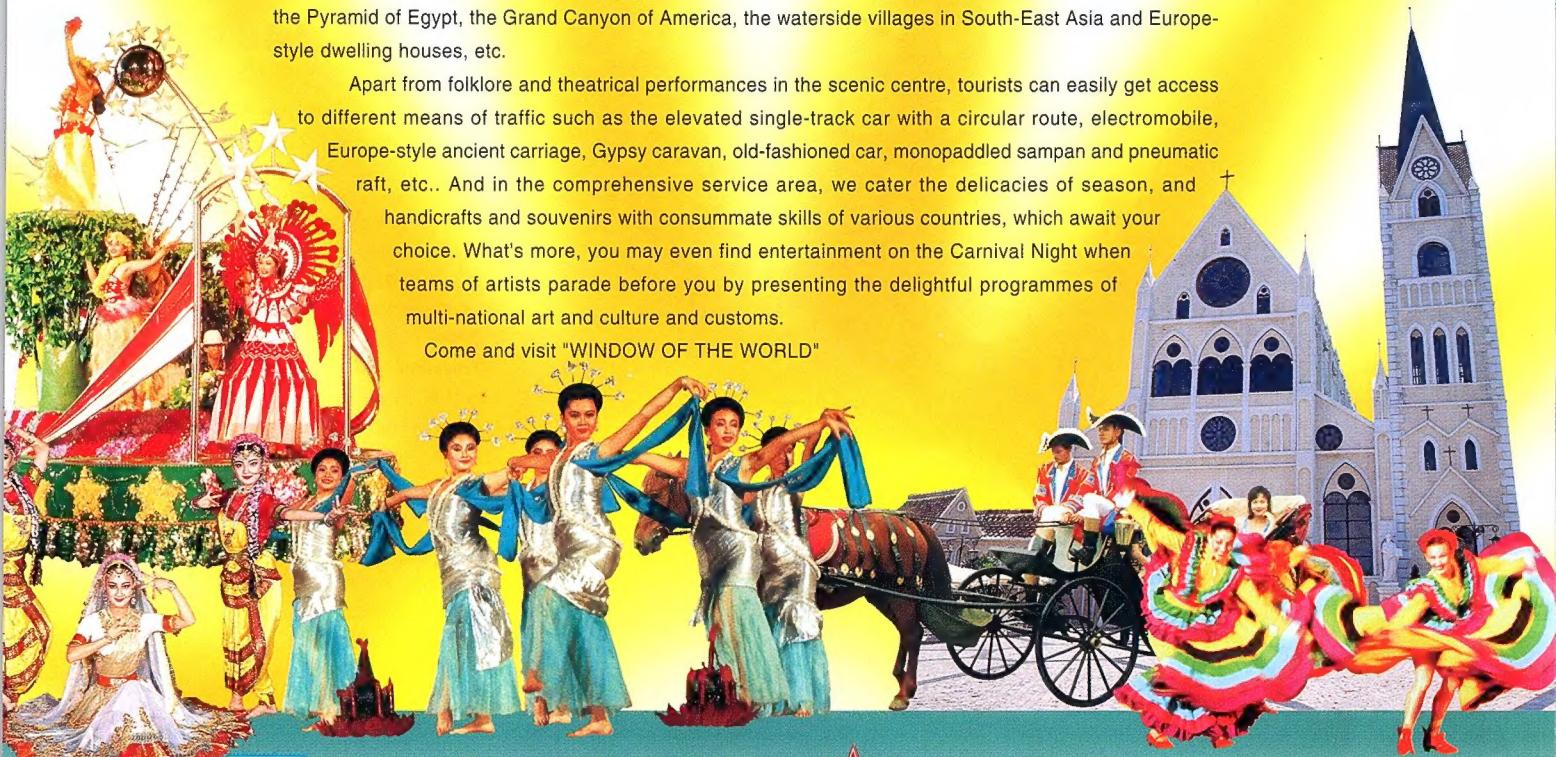


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Say "No" to Beaten Tracks and Fallen Leaves - A Photographer's Quest for Excellence

Photos by Tchan Fou-li Article by Yu Lan

Despite his venerated age of 80, Tchan Fou-li, a famous Hong Kong photographer, has never given up his quest for excellence. It is this devotion that has made him determined to blaze a new trail in the world of photography, rich in ethnic character and expression.



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Photos and article by Shan Xiaogang

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The river looks like a dark, deep scar cut into the earth. Hemmed in by vertical cliffs, it threatens to damn anyone attempting to enter it. But a few tourists, including one of our correspondents, have experienced the thrill of rafting on it.



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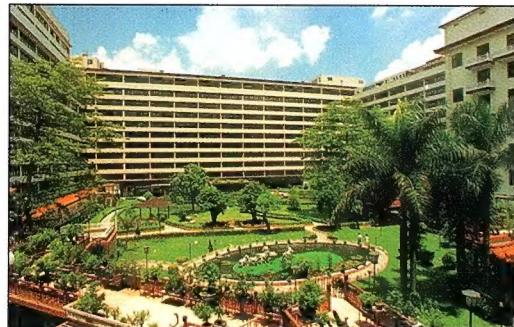


相逢自是有緣 東方以客爲尊

RIGHT HERE WAITING FOR YOU

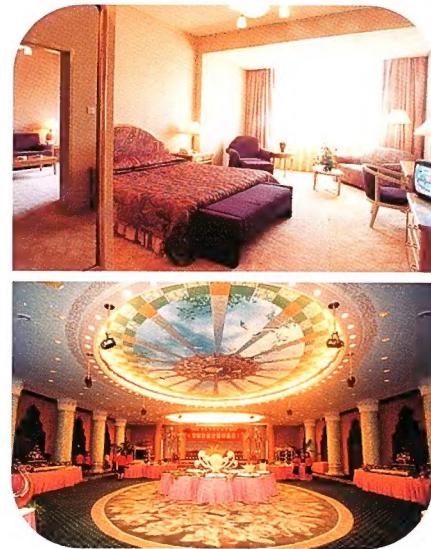


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Tea drinking is an age-old pastime in China. Nowadays, teahouses of all descriptions have sprouted up throughout the country, many of them in good taste with distinctive decorations and folk entertainment.



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An ancient Chinese saying goes that people "would rather live without meat than live without bamboo". A visit to Jiangan in Sichuan Province will help you understand why. Bamboo groves evoke the sense of tranquillity coupled with elegance; bamboo works provide a rich variety of ornaments and household utensils.



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An Encounter with the Panda 80

Photos and Article by Sunny Wong

It is a common knowledge that China is home to the panda, but few have learned about Dengchi Gully, where this rare animal was first discovered. One of our readers had the fortune to encounter a panda there and is willing to share the experience with us.



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Front Cover: Detail of a Shaolin mural

SAY "No" TO BEATEN TRACKS AND FALLEN LEAVES

– A PHOTOGRAPHER'S QUEST
FOR EXCELLENCE

Tchan Fou-li is a famous Hong Kong photographer.

Despite his venerated age of 80, he has never given up his quest for higher excellence. "I'd rather hold fast to the fragrant tree until the last day, than dance in the autumn wind with the fallen leaves." This line, which he wrote to describe his recent masterpiece, *Remnant Colour Scarlet*, is an apt expression of his constant quest for new dimensions in the art of photography.

As befitting an ambitious artist, he never allows himself to be carried away by his past glories. Since 1965, he has become conspicuous by his absence from international art salons. If he were not a brave man backed by his talent, if he had not set higher goals for his art, he would long ago have been content to sit on his laurels.

However, he never calls it quits.

Perhaps it is possible to attribute his attitude to an utter dedication to his art. It is this devotion which has driven him to blaze a new trail in the world of photography, rich in ethnic character and individuality. His creative career, spanning half a century, has yielded many masterpieces. His works hold individual significance despite the wide range of subject matter; each and every one of them is a study in excellence.

Most of his creations stem from China, and they cover everything from landscape to portraits and still life.

His landscape photography, in particular, carries a unique artistic expression.

He has a way of imparting compassion into his pictures. As a result, what unfolds before us are images which evoke the heady aura of the soil and the countryside.

Tchan Fou-li's photographs are evocative of the poetry of the Tang and Song dynasties. Everything about his works, be it composition, colour tone or lineal arrangement, is suffused with poetry. With a unique perspective, he has succeeded in recapturing the poetry in the greatness of nature and elevating it to an artistic sublimity which provides much food for thought.

Apart from his talent, painstaking effort is another key factor behind his photography.

He diligently challenges himself, and never stops probing for ways to break through his own limitations.

Such is the stuff that the great master is made of. This group of photographs by Tchan Fou-li reveals, in a convincing way, his sensitive and shrewd perspectives.

Article by Yu Lan, Translated by Ling Yuan



Ospreys

魚鷹



The Coolness of Autumn

正是天涼好個秋



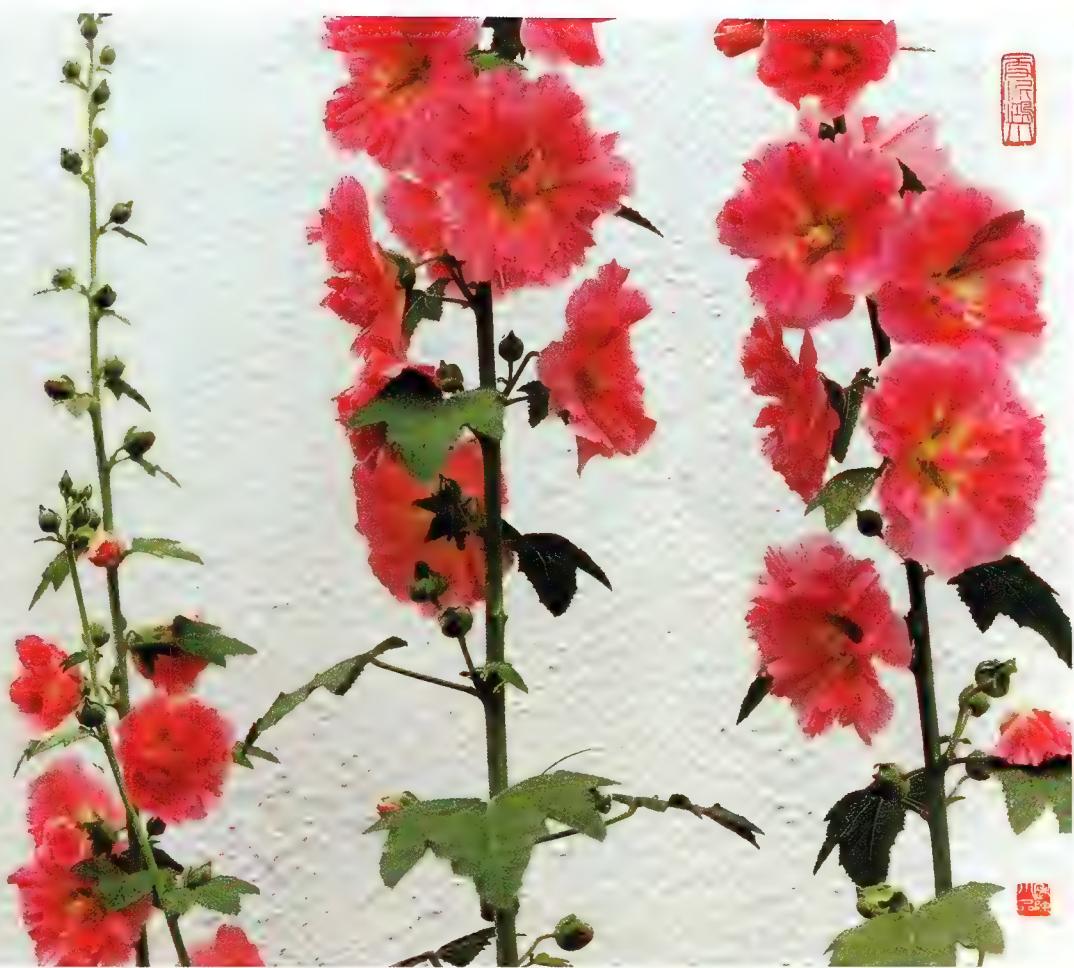


The Beauty of an Old Garden

故園

花影重重
萬紫千紅開出了
一個繽紛的天地

閑情淡影



Flowers Against a Wall



禪院

A Zen Garden



九魚圖

九
魚
之
秋

乙未秋日



Nine Fish in a Garden Pool



Dinner by the Riverside

夜宴
水鄉靜靜，
燈光帆影迷濛中。
一片清幽的世界。



The Land of Water



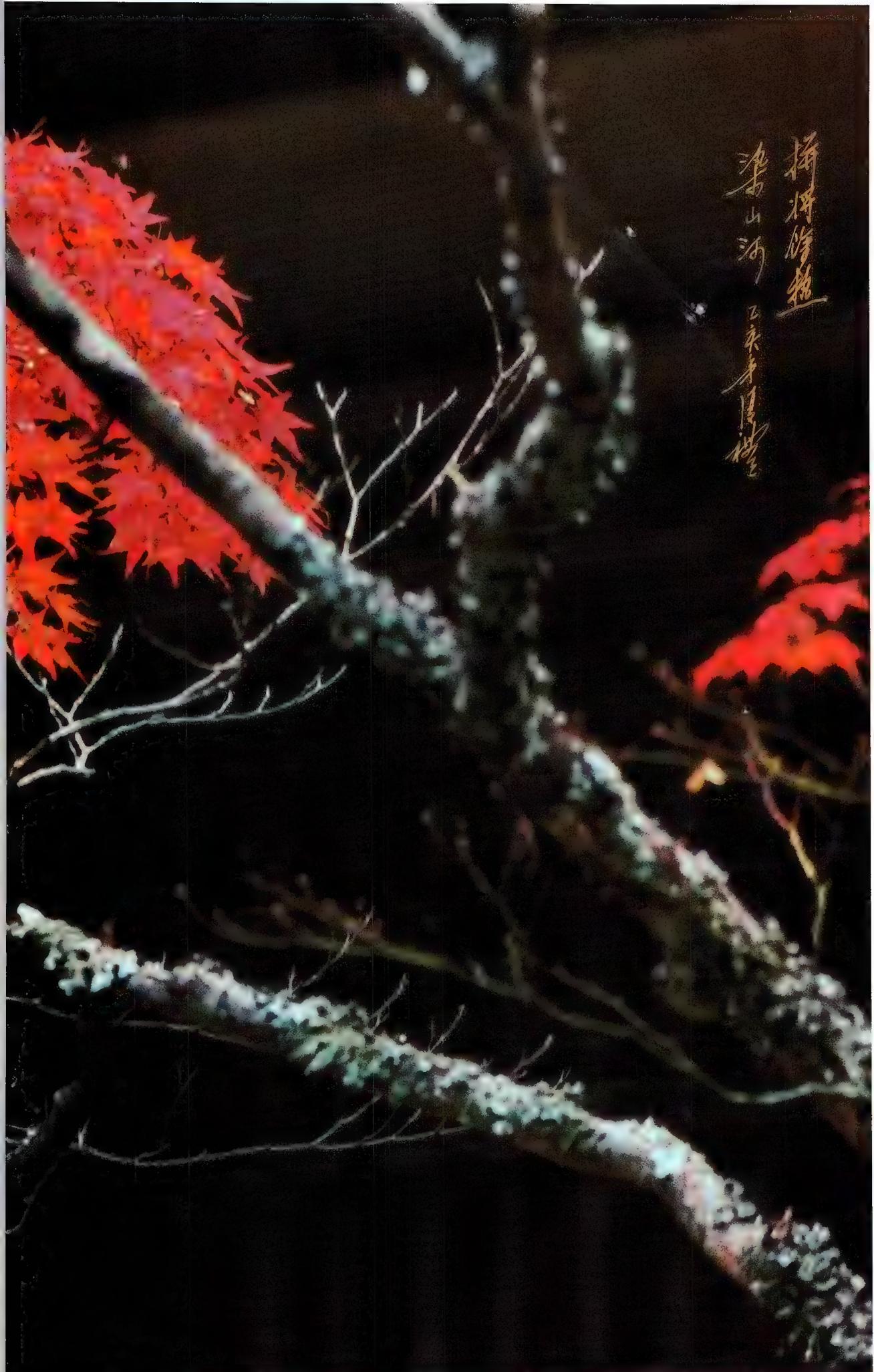
Outside a Spirits Shop



The Colour of Autumn

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乙亥年夏
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CHANGE IS ETERNAL

It has been the concern of some faithful *China Tourism* readers: "After 16 years of publication, how is it that you can still find new subjects for the magazine?"

In fact our editors confront this question all the time.

While working on the current issue, we have once again found the answer to it. We went back to an old place which we hadn't visited for 16 years, to find that it had changed so drastically that it needed writing about all over again. This place was Shaolin Temple, which on revisiting, stirred up old memories of packed old buses lurching forward; the street in front of the temple deserted except for a couple of noodle shops; for the three meals each day we had had nothing more than the same steamed buns and a meagre soup; in order to watch a martial arts lesson, we had secretly climbed up to the Dharma Cave where master monks were passing the skills to their disciples. These old memories remained as fresh as if they had happened yesterday.

Looking at the pictures of today's Shaolin Temple, we find dramatic contrast: Tourist buses run back and forth efficiently; visitors have a variety of entertaining activities; there are rows of restaurants on both sides of the street serving delicious food; in the hotels, the facilities are modern and well-equipped. Furthermore, thousands of laymen are now able to learn the original Shaolin Martial Arts from the monks there. Probably the heroic monk giving the breathtaking performance is the very one who long ago had to move out to make his room available to us visitors. Today's Shaolin Temple may have lost some of its original peace and simplicity, but in its place is a new vitality. The formerly solemn and restrained ancient temple has reached out to pass on its traditional martial arts to people at large.

Change is eternal. Without change, there would be no progress. Like Dianchi, the beautiful lake in Kunming, which could only be viewed from the vista Longmen, now can be also toured by riding 250 kilometres around it. During his 50 years as a photographer, what Tchan Fou-li has been pursuing is also change, the indefatigable quest for excellence. To make changes you need courage. Our story of rafting along the Maling River depicts the guts and determination of the canoeists.

In response to our readers' concern, besides continuing our efforts to discover new subjects, we will also collect materials reflecting changes in familiar subjects. We hope they, too, will bring you enjoyment.

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D I S C O V E R I E S

Learning Martial Arts at Shaolin

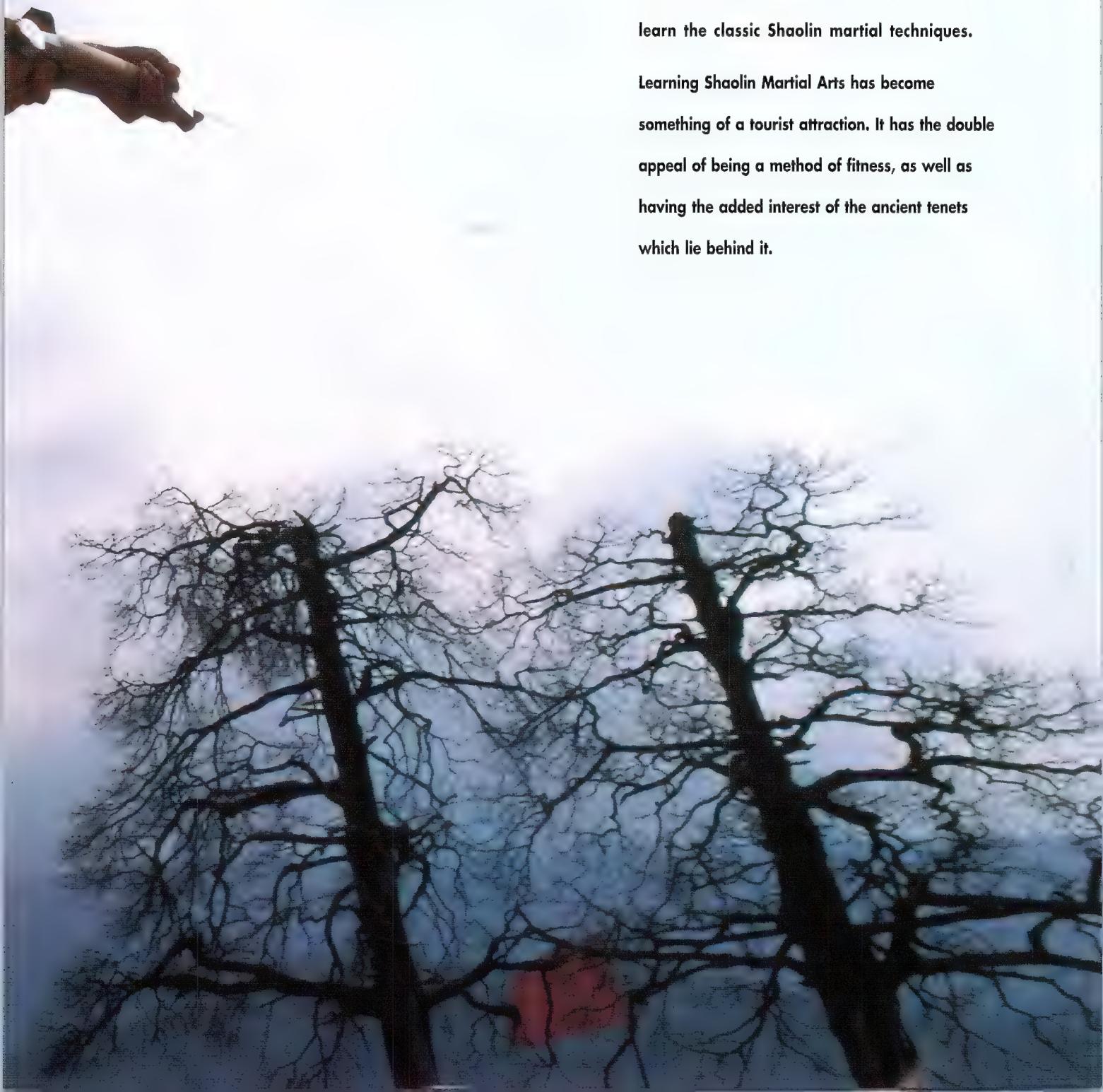
Photos and Article by Shan Xiaogang

In the past

to learn Shaolin Martial

Arts you had to sign up as a pupil to a master at Shaolin Temple and stay there to study for at least ten years. Moreover, only men were eligible to apply for tuition. Today, all that has changed. Now open to both men and women, short courses exist from one week to one year, during which you can learn the classic Shaolin martial techniques.

Learning Shaolin Martial Arts has become something of a tourist attraction. It has the double appeal of being a method of fitness, as well as having the added interest of the ancient tenets which lie behind it.



I myself have always wanted to learn the skills taught at Shaolin,

whether out of curiosity or a desire to make myself more powerful than others, I am not sure.

Joining a tour group earlier this year,

I finally made the long-awaited journey to Mount Songshan.

The First Lesson

After our group's arrival at the Martial Arts School near Shaolin Temple, a brief ceremony was held to welcome us formally as students. Our teacher was Master Shi Decheng, a 30th-generation monk at Shaolin. After the ceremony, he led us to a practising room to begin the lesson. The first lesson was to do the "horse sitting pose" for two hours without moving. Judging myself to be fairly proficient in the basic skills of martial arts, I assumed the pose as soon as the command was given. However, in less than 30 minutes, I, like the others, was unable to continue and collapsed on the ground. A debilitating cramp had set in my legs and I could not move for a long time. After this episode we all felt less than enthusiastic about the rest of the course. However, we later learned that this first lesson was designed to be a test of our existing proficiency, so that the master could gauge the level from which to teach us.

Early the second morning when I awoke, I heard shouts and footsteps in the distance. I went outside and climbed up a hill to have a look. Shadows of people practising martial arts were visible in the dim morning light. People in square formations could be seen everywhere on the mountain slopes, their shouts cutting through the air. The long narrow valley seemed to contain hundreds of Shaolin troops. The scene was more wonderful and magnificent than I had expected. It filled me with inspiration.

After several days' lessons, all of us had sore waists and aching backs, and our arms and legs were swollen. But we kept on with our lessons, which included instruction in Shaolin boxing and weaponry. Master Decheng's energy, skilful technique and profound knowledge filled me with admiration. He was always a patient and attentive coach, and would frequently give us useful insights on our newly learned skills. Every day after practice, he would come and show us how to massage

sore muscles and which particular acupoint to press to assist healing. He would also give us tips on how to improve our technique. The lesson lasted for four hours each day, with the rest of the day assigned for practice or sight-seeing. However, it was a few days before I had the energy to do anything else apart from attending the lessons. I found that after four hours of class, my arms and legs would be so tired that I could barely lift them. All my spare time was spent resting. A few days later, my body became more accustomed to the regime, and I spent more time practising. I even managed to visit some interesting places around the temple.

Exploring Shaolin Temple

After lesson one day, several of us went to Shaolin Temple to give offerings to the Buddha. I reflected on the Buddhist teachings of being kind to others and of cultivating inner harmony. I was puzzled as I tried to work out the seeming contradiction of this philosophy with martial arts. How was it that a Buddhist temple would become a centre for martial skills? This dilemma was explained later in a short history lesson we had. The martial arts had developed originally as exercise, to counteract the long hours which monks had to spend sitting in meditation. To prevent numbness and fatigue, they developed a system of exercise. In fact Master Decheng had made it clear in the beginning that Shaolin Martial Arts was for health fitness, not for fighting.

When visiting the residential compound within Shaolin Temple, I was especially attracted to two features. The first was an inscription describing how the second founder of Shaolin Buddhism, Monk Huike, had waited in snow for his master to bring some Buddhist scriptures. I was touched by his spirit and fortitude. The second place to catch my attention was the Qianfo (Thousand-Buddha) Hall, where there were 48 hollow impressions on the stone floor, each set two metres apart from each other. Apparently they were formed by the monks' repeated practising of the "standing pose" in the same places for so many years.

In the Beiyi (White Clothes) Hall to the left of the Thousand-Buddha Hall, there were murals (dating back to the Ming Dynasty) of Shaolin monks performing Shaolin boxing movements. These paintings in fact acted as instructions, which we discovered were the same as those we had just received from Master Decheng. We were delighted to discover that we were learning exactly the same



Left: Young students of the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School are practising *jinshazhang* (golden sand palm), one of the 72 external *qigong* skills of the Shaolin Martial Arts. It is the technique used for acupoint pressing, bone dislocating and injuring inner organs. It takes six to ten years to learn it.

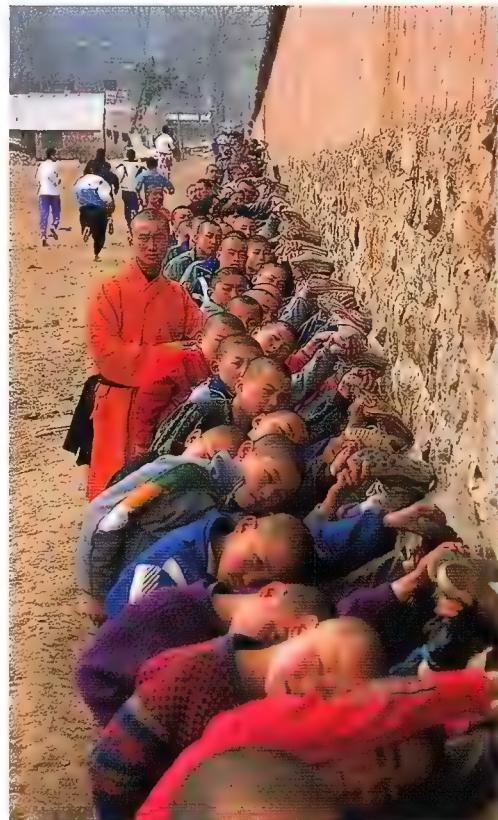


Previous page: The sword is one of the four major weapons used in ancient China. Master Haideng once described in a poem that "after spending ten years learning the sword technique, you will not be afraid of the tiger in the mountain."

Above: After the film Shaolin Temple was shown in the 1980s, tens of thousands of people have been to the place to learn martial arts. Today, there are 30 martial arts schools in the Shaolin Temple area, with a total enrolment of 30,000. The picture shows students of the Tagou Martial Arts School practising their skills in the morning.

Left: Master Decheng coaching a Belgian student. One of the major teachers of the Overseas Department of the school, Decheng is the 31st generation of Shaolin martial monks. A native of Kaifeng, he began to learn martial arts at the age of six and entered Shaolin Temple at 16. He has been to various countries, such as France, Germany, Britain and Singapore, to teach Shaolin Martial Arts.

Right: Students of the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School practising basic skills. Shaolin Temple has long been famous for its unique martial arts. In the Ming Dynasty, 800 of its martial monks were in active military service as generals. But in the Qing Dynasty, the Shaolin monks were persecuted. The old tradition of practising martial arts was restored in the 1950s.



子第家俗

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skills as those taught centuries before.

Out of Shaolin Temple, we climbed a mountain behind the temple called Wuru (Five-Breast) Peak, which contains the Dharma Cave. It was here that the founder of Shaolin Martial Arts, Master Dharma, spent nine years studying the Chinese Zen sect. To the southwest of Shaolin Temple, on Shaoshi Mountain, we visited a place called Erzu (Second Founder) Monastery, where Monk Huike had nursed his wounds after breaking his arm. On our way down the mountain, we saw a lonely house deep in the valley with a playground in front. This was a martial arts school where a dozen boys were practising. One could tell from this how popular Shaolin Martial Arts must be among the people of China.



was true, but failed to discover anyone. We later asked our teacher Master Decheng, who smiled and said: "The so-called secret martial art is actually no secret. The skills are quite simple, but ordinary people would find it very difficult to master unless properly taught. If they just tried to copy what they saw, they would get hurt. So it is better not to let them see us when we practise."

To help us understand the true nature of Shaolin Martial Arts and its colourful costume, the school arranged for us to see a series of performances. The martial monks, all in Buddhist robes, performed Shaolin boxing which was so fantastic that they seemed to move at lightning speed, then be able to sit as immobile as stone, fight like tigers, fly through the air like something supernatural, and shout with all the force of thunder.

I was amazed at the way they could so skilfully combine strength with precision, defence with attack. Perhaps these terms sound rather

Left: Students of the Martial Arts School for Lay Buddhists practising their skills. Though they are not monks, these students from lay Buddhist families prefer to have their heads shaved and wear monk's robes to show that they are different from students of other martial arts schools.

Above: Shaolin boxing is considered the cream of Shaolin Martial Arts. All monks and students of Shaolin Temple must practise three years' basic skills such as standing, squatting and kicking to learn this boxing.

Right: Students of the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School having a cultural class. It is the tradition of the temple that monks should learn both martial arts and literature. In the past, many martial monks of Shaolin Temple became distinctive doctors and scholars.

stereotyped, and straight out of a martial arts novel, but in this case they are the most apt way I know to describe the monks' performance. The shows had interesting names, such as "Iron Head", "Iron Clothes", "Kicking Heads", "Holding Buddha's Foot", and "Fighting Mountain Gate". This last one can often be seen in films and on TV plays, and its theme stems from an old tradition at Shaolin Temple. To ensure that all the monks going down the mountain were truly masters in the art, each one had to defeat the guard at the gate before being allowed through. I thought to myself that I was fortunate not to have entered the temple, as I would probably never make it past the gate! The performances made us all aware of the importance of practising the basic movements as well as the poses, because without mastery of the movements, our mastery of the poses would mean nothing. As the old Chinese saying goes, "If you do not practise basic skills, you will obtain nothing even till you are old."

We were told that these monks are professional teachers, paid a wage of 200 yuan per month. Their job is to popularise Shaolin Martial Arts worldwide, and every year they visit a dozen countries and regions to give performances and teach. I envied their fitness. Their faces had not even changed colour after several rounds of performances, yet I would start panting after a few movements. When I saw the three scars on the forehead of Master Deshan who could break a steel plate with his head, I asked him whether there was a secret to learning the skill. He simply smiled and said, "Dedication." It is obvious that one has to practise for many years, living a poor and solitary life, before really mastering the skill. How could someone ordinary like me have what it takes?

Time flew! It had been a week since we came to study in Shaolin Temple. As well as *xiahong* boxing, we had learned about the history and basic theory of Shaolin Martial Arts. This trip to Shaolin had really brought home to me the depth and sophistication of Chinese martial arts. There was one more week left of the course. In the second week Master Decheng was to teach us *Arhat* Boxing. This was the last set of boxing we learned in Shaolin, and I was determined to master it. But whenever I got worried about not being able to manage it, I would say to myself: "Don't worry! If you cannot get it all right, at least it's a good way of getting fit." Catching sight of my growing muscles in the mirror at least was an encouragement in that direction.





Above: Overseas students practising the standing pose, a basic technique in Shaolin Martial Arts. After mastering this skill, one can fight on this kind of stake as well as on even ground. This practice also lays the foundation for the skill of jumping on to a roof and walking on the top of a wall.

Middle: Saying goodbye to the teacher. The master monks treat their students as family members and friends. They are always helpful whenever the students have a problem, curing their wounds and taking good care of them when they are sick.

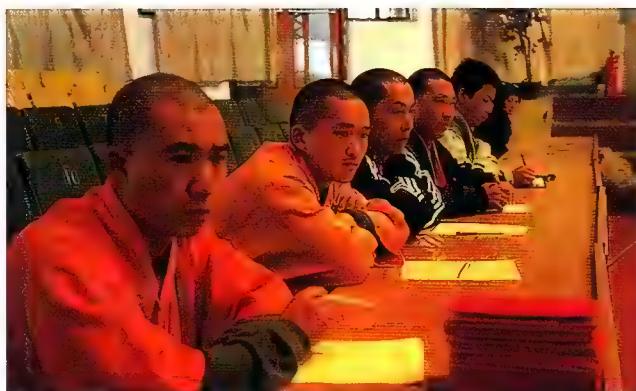
Right: See how much I have learned! Jan Golle, the German student, said he had had a very good experience staying in the birthplace of Chinese martial arts. Though here for only a short time, he had learned enough to show off to his classmates back home. When he could make enough money, he said, he would come back to further his study of Shaolin Martial Arts.



A Visit to Tagou Martial Arts School

In the early Sunday morning, we went to visit Tagou Martial Arts School, which is under the auspices of Shaolin Temple. On our way there we saw many martial arts schools, where numerous "Shaolin boys" were practising. The whole area is full of the atmosphere of martial arts. In the town of Tagou we saw drilling grounds linked together, where a few thousand boys and girls were in drilling formations. Swords, poles and other weapons that they held were glittering in the sun as they performed their routine. I imagined it was probably more colourful than the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

It is worth a word or two about the history of the school. Started by a father and son from a small three-room thatched house, it has developed into a school of 4,000-5,000 students, studying both the normal



this news and sent over more money, asking them to stay for another year. The brothers were happy to obey their father's order.

Final Examination

At the end of the two-week course it was the time for the final examination. Everybody was quite nervous. We practised late into the night, trying to memorise what we had learned. So absorbed we had become in our practice, that sometimes we would even have dreams in which we were waving our arms and stretching our legs. On the exam day, the examiners consisted of a panel of five masters who watched each of us perform in turn. Their serious faces made me so nervous that my palms got sweaty. However, we performed like veterans without big mistakes and all passed, though the marks were not high. We were all thrilled to accept our graduation certificates from the masters.

Leaving Shaolin

Although we had in fact only learned one or two positions in Shaolin Martial Arts, we had enough to show off about, since we were now disciples of the genuine Shaolin masters. It was very sad to leave Shaolin, and it was with tears in our eyes that we said goodbye to our teacher and fellow students. Though it had been a short period of two weeks, we had studied and lived together and had become friends, all sharing the same dream. We all made resolutions: "Practise hard and try to find another chance to come again."



school curriculum and martial arts. This may be the first of its kind in the world. The headmaster gave me a volume of *Lessons of Traditional Shaolin Martial Arts* which were written and compiled by the school-masters. When I left the school, the whole street had become packed with students who were on their way back to their dormitories for breakfast after morning exercise. The whole township was seething with excitement and jollity.

Meeting masters and students

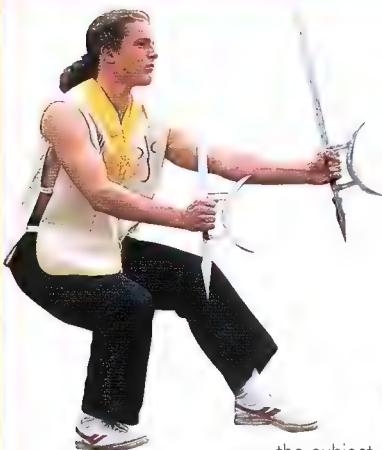
During my study in Shaolin, I got to know several people in the martial arts circle, such as Shi Xingpeng, master of *tongzigong*; Shi Yanlin, master of the sword, Shi Xingyu, master of hard *qigong*, and Shi Xiaolong who has become a TV and movie star. There were a group of people from Germany who came to learn Shaolin Martial Arts and practised very earnestly. Of them, Peter Rutkowski was also a martial arts teacher back home. This was his second visit to Shaolin. Some secondary school students, like Jan Golle from Wuppertal, Germany, had worked to earn enough money in order to come and study here. A Norwegian couple were there who planned to open a martial arts school after they went back to Norway. The most peculiar visitors were the two overseas Chinese brothers from French Polynesia. Xiangrong had come with his younger brother, Xiangcheng, who wanted to lose weight. On their arrival, Xiangcheng's weight was 102 kg, but after a year on the martial arts course he had lost over 20 kg. Their father was apparently very pleased at

Translated by Xu Mingqiang

Left: Tan Dengchao (first, left), a teacher at the Tagou Martial Arts School, shares the same dorm with his 40 students and eats in the same cafeteria. Students at this school have to abide by strict rules and are not allowed to smoke or drink alcohol.

Right: The final examination. Each student has to show what he or she has learned under the scrutiny of the panel. The satisfactory results prove the Chinese saying, "A strict teacher produces excellent students."





Two Germans, 45-year-old Peter Rutkowski and 16-year-old Jan Golle made a special trip to

GERMANS LEARNING CHINESE GONGFU

arts. Following are the excerpts of their experiences originally written in German.

the Shaolin Temple to learn
the genuine Shaolin martial

- The Editor

ut of curiosity, and because I have seen several films on the subject, I began to learn the Shaolin Martial Arts in 1990. When Udo, my coach, came back from Shaolin Temple, he told us many interesting things about his visit to the temple in Henan Province. We were also very keen to receive the once-in-a-lifetime chance of being taught by a Shaolin monk and decided we would join him the next time he went. China as a country also interested me greatly. However, my main reason for wanting to visit China was the knowledge that Shaolin temple is regarded as the cradle of all martial arts.

Two weeks were spent at Shaolin temple where we were trained in the art of Shaolin *hongquan*, *qigong* and sword for four hours each day, which by European standards was quite tough. We had an interpreter who accompanied us throughout the trip. He was the communications bridge between ourselves and our master.

I found I had a small problem with some of the standing exercises — the positions were very low and they caused me to experience sore muscles almost the whole time. But I managed to keep up with the requirements and thankfully passed the examination.

On one of the days we took a hovercraft ride on the Yellow River which we enjoyed immensely. It was definitely one of the highlights of our trip.

In Beijing we marvelled at the impressive sight of the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, as well as the Forbidden City, and we spent our last evening at a lively, atmospheric hard rock cafe, a great place for young people.

Looking back, our trip to China was truly a fantastic encounter, enabling me to experience the life of a monk, which I will never forget.

Having practised Asian martial arts for many years it has always been a dream of mine to train with the legendary Shaolin monks. My dream became a reality in March 1996 when I joined up with a German group of ten martial arts enthusiasts. Together we set off for the famous Shaolin Temple in Henan Province, travelling through Beijing, Zhengzhou and Dengfeng.

When we arrived at the Tagou Village on March 23, I was surprised to see thousands of students lining the road on either side watching us. We finally stepped off our bus to be greeted by countless interested faces — apparently "round eye" visitors were still a curiosity in these parts.

We checked into our guesthouse, the Shaolin Wushu Training Centre, and after a much needed rest we were given a warm welcome by our coach, Master Shi Dewei, a monk of the 31st generation of Shaolin Tem-

ple monks. He asked us if we had any special training requirements and immediately set about the task of organising our training schedule for the next two weeks.

The next morning, at 9 a.m. sharp, we began by practising the *dahong* boxing. Having an interpreter assigned by the training centre made life easier and through him we were able to communicate directly with our tutor and master. Sometimes our master was even able to understand us and replied in his own kind and gentle manner.

At first we thought that the programme arranged by our master was too easy, but we soon realised that in fact the timing was perfect. The breaks allowed us just enough time to consolidate what we had just been taught and helped us to deepen our understanding of the technique. We had already reached our limit and our aching muscles constantly bothered us. Though we had all been through tough training workshops in Germany and considered ourselves to be in good physical condition, we had to confess that our Chinese counterparts were, in many respects, much better than we were.

After 16 days of intensive training we were required to take an examination. In front of a panel of five Shaolin masters we were required to perform each of the exercises we had been taught. Each step and movement was critically followed by their keen eyes. But master Shi Dewei had prepared his students very well and each of us were rewarded with a personal diploma.

The last item on our itinerary was a visit to the Taijiquan Training Centre in the village of Chenjiagou which was said to be the home of the Chen-Style *taiji* boxing. A performance of *taiji* exercises was arranged, and we were all fascinated by the skills demonstrated by the locals.

As we began our journey back to Germany we savoured both the alien and new impressions we had felt over the past few days. It is a wonderful and indescribable sensation to have been trained in the cradle of all martial arts.



Left page: This monk exercising on the Shaobao Mountain looks as powerful as a vulture. (by Song Shufan)

Upper: German student Jan Golle

Lower: Peter Rutkowski

SHAOLIN MARTIAL ARTS:

Shaolin Martial Arts, the epitome of Chinese martial arts, takes its name from Shaolin Temple on Mount Songshan in Henan Province, which is the birthplace of this special-style Chinese Kungfu.

The temple was built in 495 by Emperor Xiaowen who was a Buddhist. At that time Bodhidharma, a Buddhist high monk from India, was in China as a missionary preaching Buddhism, and he became the first to take up residence in the temple. During his stay, Bodhidharma spent nine years

sitting in meditation in a cave on the Wuru Peak, where he created the Chinese Zen sect.

Nobody imagined back then that the temple would later become famous, not for its religion, but its martial arts.

Shaolin Martial Arts,

though famous for its military power, was not originally developed for fighting, but for health.

The monks found that sitting in meditation for long periods caused pain and fatigue in their back and limbs. They attempted to solve this problem by developing a set of exercises to help stimulate the blood circulation and loosen the muscles and joints. Practising martial arts also helped the monks' concentration during meditation and improved their general health.

Having absorbed the influences of other martial arts schools and added poses and movements observed in animals, Shaolin monks further developed their techniques, claiming for it an important position in Chinese martial arts.

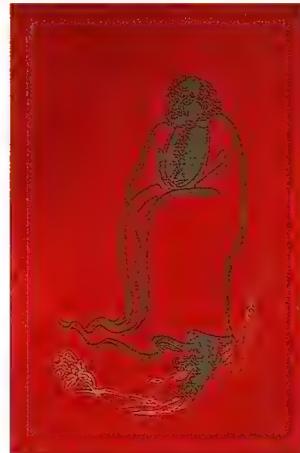
Martial arts in battle

However, Shaolin Martial Arts did get chance to show its military prowess in Chinese history. In 618, as the Sui Dynasty was crumbling and the Tang Dynasty was in the ascendancy, 13 trained monks from Shaolin Temple helped the founding Tang Emperor, Li Shimin, win a decisive victory.

After the battle, the Emperor rewarded their merit by honouring their temple the prestigious name of "First Temple Under Heaven". Shaolin Martial Arts thereafter became well-known in China.



Detail of Shaolin Temple mural (I)



Bodhidharma

AN ANCIENT WISDOM

Also, during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the monks from Shaolin Temple helped to defeat the Japanese invaders in Songjiang in the Shanghai area and again earned nationwide acclaim.

More than 100 Techniques

With its long history and the efforts of successive monks, Shaolin Martial Arts has developed into a superior school in the field. Shaolin Martial Arts contains more than 100 styles. The many different styles encompass qigong, "light" skills, "hard" skills, "child" skills, acupoint pressing, bone dislocating technique, "heat" skills, positive-negative skills, and the heart and mind skills.

Internal qigong is used in heart and mind skills to regulate blood circulation in sitting meditation, and also to focus the mind to accomplish seemingly impossible feats.

External qigong is used for the hard skills, in which one focuses energy on a specific part of the body to endow it with extraordinary power. A master of "hard" skills is able to break bricks on the head, crush stones with the feet, break a rod against their abdomen and hold back a spear with their throat.

"Boxing on a Line"

There are many sayings that accompany martial practice, such as "boxing within an ox-sized place" indicating that this style of boxing only needs a space as big as the size of an ox, and "boxing on a line", to describe a particular boxing style which always keeps to a line.

An image to describe a particular style of using the spear is "the spear is waved like a dragon and points in a straight line." The Shaolin sword fighting method is taught to be unique, sometimes mimicking "a tiger's leap", and sometimes that of "a writhing dragon".

From generation to generation, through practice and study, the Shaolin monks have developed their martial arts into a unique style which combines movement with stillness, and meditation with combat.

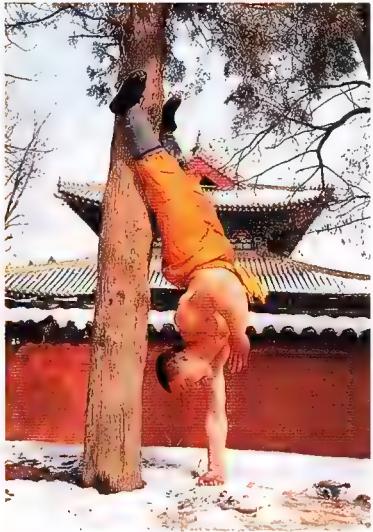
For any student of martial arts visiting China, Shaolin Temple should be top of their itinerary.



Detail of Shaolin Temple mural (II)

Translated by Xu Mingqiang

SHAOLIN MONKS: RISING BEFORE DAWN



ing the earlier masters' teaching of "getting up early to practise martial arts" and rise at four every morning to do basic training until the sun rises. At night, when everything gets quiet, they either shut themselves away behind closed doors or retreat into dense woods to practise what they have learned. This has been the traditional routine of Shaolin martial monks for centuries.

According to historical records, the first martial monk in the temple was Sengchou, who became the third abbot at Shaolin. He actively encouraged Shaolin monks to practise martial arts for health and self protection. This laid down the foundation for the development of Shaolin Martial Arts.

At first, the martial monks' duties were only to guard the monastery and protect it from external attack. However, in the first year of the Tang Dynasty they were commissioned to assist Li Shimin, the founding Emperor, to win a decisive battle, and in fact helped consolidate his rule. They became widely known throughout China from that time. Besides giving them lavish material rewards and conferring on them titles for their valiant service, the Tang Emperor ordered a stone tablet to be erected to record their heroism. He also conferred the leading monk the title of "General of Martial Monks" and presented him with some fertile land and stone mills. He also gave permission to allow the temple to have an army of 500 martial monks with its own camp, thus making Shaolin the only Buddhist temple in China to have monk soldiers.

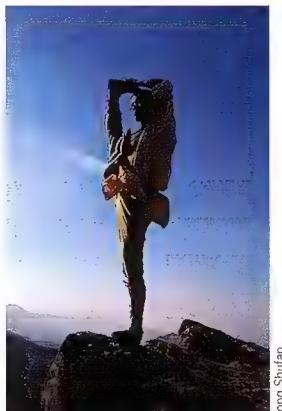
Encouraged by various emperors in the Tang, Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties, Shaolin Martial Arts continued to develop, with many gallant heroes arising from among the Shaolin monks. In the Yuan Dynasty, Monk Fuyu was posthumously conferred the Duke of the State of Jin for

The martial monks at Shaolin Temple are no different from other monks in the day time: each has his own work and abides by the rules of the monastery. The exception is that twice a day, once before dawn and again before evening meditation, they learn and practise martial techniques. The monks in Shaolin Temple are following

his meritorious service in safeguarding the country. In the Ming Dynasty, Monk Xiaoshan was summoned on three occasions to fight Japanese pirates on the coast; Master Yuekong led martial monks to Songjiang near Shanghai to fight Japanese invaders and died a martyr; and Monk Sanqi garrisoned the Three Gorges on the Yangtze River and was made a high rank military commander. During the Ming Dynasty, Shaolin martial arts were in their heyday. The total number of martial monks in Shaolin Temple added up to 10,000, with 800 being either summoned as military commanders or serving as martial arts masters.

However, during the Qing Dynasty, the imperial court feared that the monks might oppose the Qing government and restore the Ming rulers. They banned the practice of martial arts, threatening to execute the entire family of anyone who disobeyed. Consequently nearly all martial monks at Shaolin Temple were forced to resume secular lives or wander homeless around the country.

Even worse, in 1928, the local warlord, Shi Yousan, set the temple on fire, forcing most of the remaining monks to flee as refugees. In the 1950s the traditional practice of martial arts began to restore. Only in the 1980s was Shaolin Martial Arts restored to its former state, with large numbers of people flocking to the monastery to learn. To cope with demand, Shaolin Temple was rebuilt and enlarged with the addition of a martial arts school.



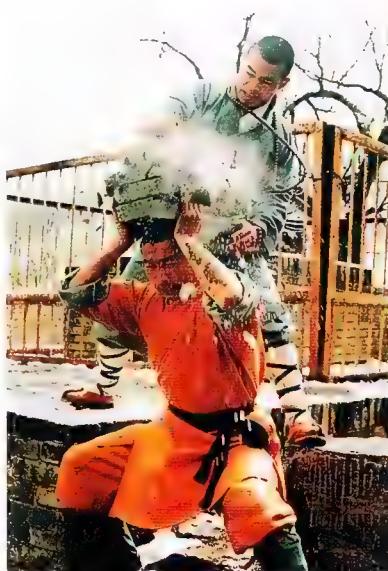
Song Shulan

Right, Upper: "Hanging technique" is one of the most sophisticated skills of Shaolin Martial Arts, which can only be learned under professional guidance. This useful skill strengthens the neck against virtually every form of attack.

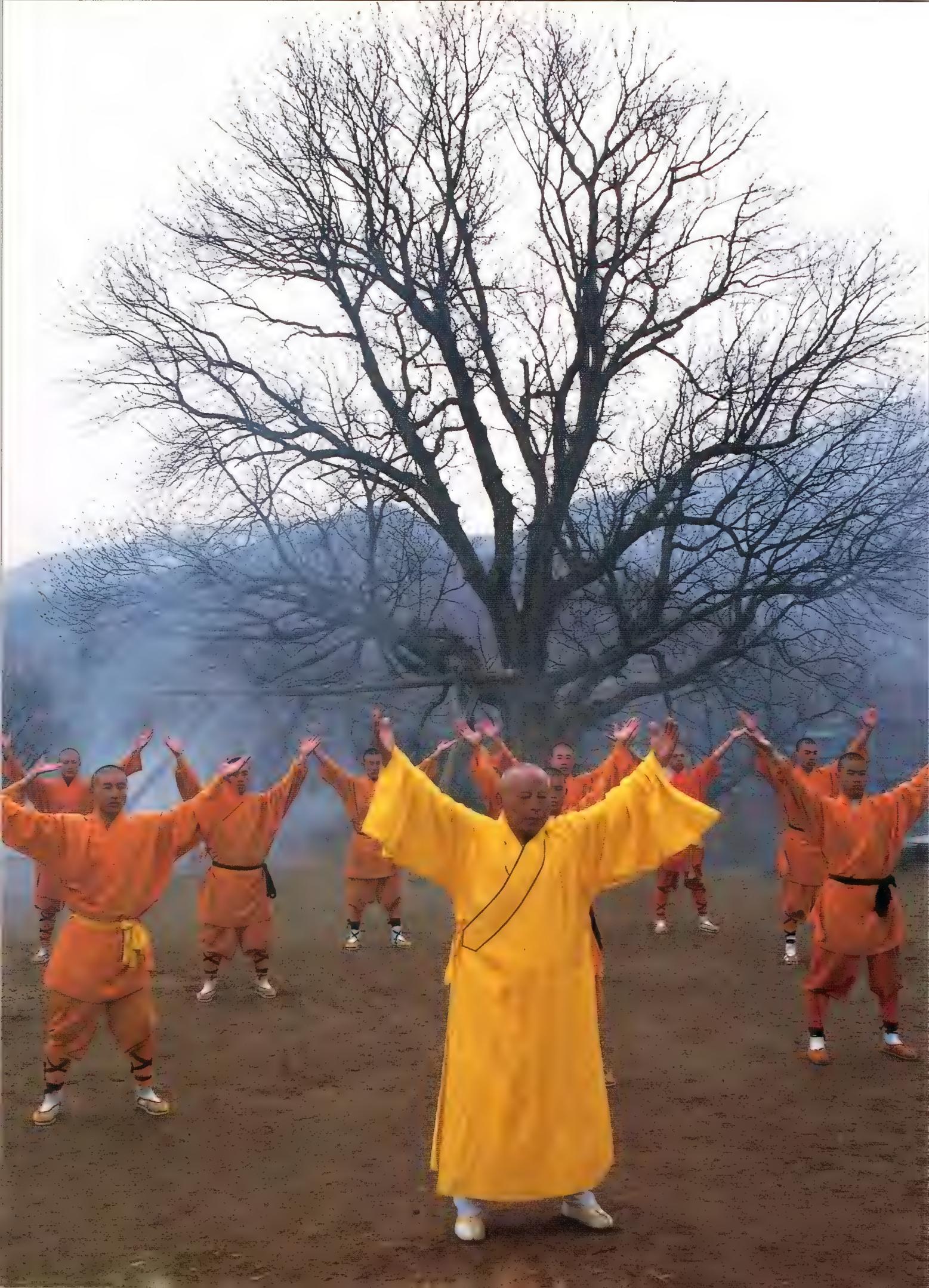
Middle: On the top of a cliff, Shi Xingpeng, a martial monk of Shaolin Temple, is practising Tongzi gong, one of the external qigong techniques of Shaolin Martial Arts.

Left, Upper: Practising the skill of supporting oneself with one arm.

Right: This skill is known as "breaking the brick with the head".



Translated by Li Zhenguo





SCHOOLS OF SHAOLIN MARTIAL ARTS



Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School

Located to the east of Shaolin Temple, the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School was built in 1988. Designed in the Chinese classical style, it is in a beautiful setting, with the Shaoshi Mountain in the background and the Shaoxi river flowing nearby.

The school is the largest comprehensive martial arts training centre in the Far East and the first in China to enrol both domestic and overseas students. The training complex covers an area of 40,000 square metres. It is a place for both trainees and tourists interested in martial arts.

The school has a faculty composed of 30 martial arts masters. Besides teaching practical martial arts skills, they also teach the history and theory of Buddhism, knowledge of traditional medicine, Chinese history and Chinese language.

Tagou Martial Arts School

Since the 1980s, several martial arts academies have been set up in the Shaolin Temple area with the number now exceeding 30 and with a total enrolment of more than 30,000 people. One of the more successful is the Tagou Martial Arts School, whose founder is a descendant of a former abbot of Shaolin Temple. Established in 1978, in its early stages the school was only a three-roomed earth house, with an enrolment of a dozen trainees. Now the school has expanded remarkably, with 412 members of staff and 4,000 students.

Left: Located in the west of Shaolin Temple, the 40-metre high Ganlu Terrace is said to be built by an Indian monk during the early years of the temple. Because of its advantageous location and good environment, many Shaolin monks come here to practise their martial skills.

Above: Martial arts teachers of the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School (clockwise from top left): Shi Dewei, Shi Xingxue, Shi Sugang, Shi Xingxi and Shi Decheng.

Courses available at the Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School

Short-term Courses

7 days Introduction to the history of the Shaolin Temple and its martial arts, fundamental exercises and *xiaohong* boxing.

15 days Same as (1), in addition, the theory of specialised fundamental exercises and *arhat* boxing.

30 days Same as (2), in addition, *dahong* boxing, *shaohuo* (fire) rod

Medium-term Courses

60 days Same as (A3 above), in addition, Buddhist studies, *dandao* (single broadsword), *sanshou* (free-style boxing).

120 days Same as (1), in addition, Dharma (Shaolin) sword, eight trigram boxing; elective courses: double broadswords, iron chain, *taiji* boxing.

180 days Same as (2), in addition to *pao* (cannon) boxing and long boxing; elective courses: Shaolin double broadswords, *fangbian* (convenient) shovel, Dharma rod, monkey boxing, armed or unarmed counter training.

Long-term Courses

360 days Introduction to the history of the Shaolin Temple and its martial arts, Buddhist studies, Chinese martial art history, basic oral Chinese, Shaolin fundamental exercises, *xiaohong* boxing, *dahong* boxing, *arhat* boxing, *shaohuo* rod, long boxing, Shaolin single broadsword, *pao* (cannon) boxing, Dharma sword, *liuhe* boxing; Shaolin spring and autumn broadswords, thirteen spears, free-style boxing, and eight trigram boxing.

Elective courses: Shaolin *guntong* double broadswords, Dharma rod, *fangbian*, shovel, nine-section chain, *taiji* boxing, short-hilt sword, *meihua* (plum blossom) single broadsword, monkey boxing, monkey rod, drunken boxing, drunken sword, armed and unarmed counter training.

Specialised Courses

Skills listed below can also be chosen to tailor-make a programme of short-, medium-, or long-term course.

Skills	Time (Day)	Skills	Time (Day)
Meihua boxing	5	Broadsword	7
Tongbi boxing	5	Pudao broadsword	7
Qixing (seven star) boxing	5	Trident	7
Changhu xingyi door boxing	5	Double broadswords	7
Chaoyang (facing sun) boxing	3	Tiger-head hook	7
Guanlong boxing	4	Chained knives	7
Mantis boxing	5	Liuhe boxing counter training	7
Erlu dahong boxing	5	Luhu rod counter training	7
Erlu arhat boxing	3	Broadsword defeating spear	7
Yinshou rod	5	Three-section rod defeating spear	7
Single broadsword defeating spear	7	Hands capturing spear	7
Unarmed single hand capturing spear	7	Shaozi rod defeating spear	7
Two hands defeating spear	7	Three-section rod against unarmed hands	7
Hands capturing spear	7	Three-person training with rods	7
Unarmed hands capturing dagger	7		



An outside view of the practising arena of Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School

Classes are four hours a day. During spare time, besides self-study, there are also many programmes for students such as sightseeing, meditation, martial art performances and ceremonies for acknowledging one's master for Buddhist study. The school can also adapt the schedule and course content to match a student's condition of health and expertise.

Teachers The courses are presented by professional teachers of the international department of Shaolin Temple Martial Arts School. All have solid teaching experience and each has his own area of expertise.

Insurance It is recommended that students be insured before starting any training. Minor illnesses and wounds can be cured at the school. The masters also teach traditional therapy for keeping fit and curing wounds.

Interpretation Courses are available in English, Japanese, Italian and Cantonese through interpretation. Some teachers at the school speak some foreign languages.

Admission All applicants must show their identity documents and health certificates. Applicants should not have heart problems, high blood pressure, epilepsy, or any infectious diseases.

Examination Certificates Upon completion of the course, students are marked by a panel and receive a certificate.

Food and Accommodation Students stay at either the overseas student dorm or Shaolin Wushu Hotel.

Tuition for overseas students

US\$ / per person

Num. of Persons	Days	Within 30 days	30 - 60 days	60 days or more
10 days or more		75	70	66
6 - 9 Persons		80	75	70
2 - 5 Persons		85	80	75
1 Persons		90	85	80

Note: Charges include course fee, food, accommodation, service and admission to sight in the Songshan Scenic Area.

Translated by Li Zhenguo

PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE SONGSHAN MOUNTAIN AREA

Dharma Cave On the southern side of Wuru (Five-Breast) mountain, only a few metres from the summit. This is the famous place where the Indian Monk Bodhidharma confined himself for meditation for nine years (527-536 A.D.).

Chuzu Monastery Located in the foothills of Wuru (Five-Breast) mountain, northwest of the Shaolin Temple. Nestled amongst ancient trees on a hilltop surrounded by steep cliffs, the monastery provides a magnificent sight. Its elegant ancient buildings contain many beautiful and intricate carvings.

Huishan Temple Situated on the southern slope of Taishi Mountain. Continuously rebuilt since 69 A.D., its statues, pagodas and stone tablets are well preserved. It houses a large tree nursery and backs on to a dense cypress forest, with a stream which splits in two running by either side of the temple. A charming and tranquil place.

Shaolin Temple On the western side of the Songshan mountain range. It got its name from its location in a heavily wooded part of the Shaoshi mountain. The first character, shao, comes from "Shaoshi", and the second one, lin, means "forest". Famous as the birthplace of Zen Buddhism and as a centre for the teaching of martial arts.

Stupa Forest The largest group of ancient stupas in China, it is at the foot of a hill about 300 metres west of Shaolin Temple. Bordered by a stream in the south and surrounded by trees, it is a quiet and charming place to visit. It is in fact a cemetery for Shaolin monks.

Erzu Monastery At the top of Boyu Peak, four kilometres from Shaolin Temple. It was built by the disciples of Huike, a famous monk, in commemoration of him. The terrain is flat and the monastery is surrounded by high cypress trees.

Shaoshi Towers Called que in Chinese, these ornamental pillars stand in front of Shaoshi Temple which was built during the Western Han Dynasty. The body of the pillar is covered with relief work of rich content, depicting scenes of racing, hunting, cockfighting and women playing football.

Yongtai Temple High on the western side of Taishi Mountain. Facing west, the temple was built in 521, during the Northern Wei Dynasty. It contains some 40 rooms which were built during the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Covering an area of more than 10,000 square metres, it is the last remaining temple for nuns in the Songshan area.

Fawang Temple Located at the foot of Yuzhu Peak on Taishi Mountain, five kilometres to the northwest of Dengfeng, Fawang Temple is the oldest temple in the Songshan area. Built in 71, it predates Shaolin Temple by over 400 years. Covering an area of 100,000 square metres, the temple is flanked by overhanging cliffs. Its buildings are scattered around the many ravines gurgling with crystal clear



water, a scene that has hardly changed over the centuries.

Zhongyue Temple A temple dedicated to Songshan Mountain or the "Central Sacred Mountain" (Zhongyue in Chinese). The temple has a very long history. Construction started in the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), and renovations continued in later dynasties. With magnificent buildings, somewhat palatial, and courtyards planted with cypress trees, the temple has long been known as the "Little Imperial Palace."

Observatory As its name implies, this is the most ancient observatory existing in China, and one of the most famous constructions of its kind in the world. Contained within a temple forecourt and amidst beautiful landscape, it is 12 kilometres southeast of the town of Dengfeng.

Songyang Academy One of the four major academies for classical learning in ancient China, it is located at the foot of Taishi Mountain, three kilometres from Dengfeng. The buildings of the academy still look elegant, and the environment is peaceful.

Taishi Pillars Built during the Eastern Han Dynasty, the stone towers were built to symbolise the front gate of Taishi Temple. The neatly carved limestone contains images such as chariot riding, strangely shaped human figures and goat heads.

Qimu Towers Located to the east of Songyang Academy at the foot of Wanfeng Peak, this was the front gate to the Qimu Temple in the Eastern Han Dynasty. Built in 123, the towers include relief carvings of reindeer, rows of human figures in rows, crane chasing fish, tigers fighting oxen and two snakes within a circle.

Songyue Monastery It stands at the foot of Taishi Mountain. Surrounded by mountains and trees, the sight is very picturesque with many clear streams coursing through. Built over 1,400 years ago, the pagoda is the oldest surviving Buddhist brick structure. It is over 40 metres high and has 15 storeys, with walls almost 2.5 metres thick. It has withstood many earthquakes and continuous weathering in the past 14 centuries and still remains intact, unusual indeed for a building so ancient.

Jiyin Summer Resort On the northern slope of Qishan Mountain, there are dense forests and clear mountain streams. With a quiet environment and beautiful scenery, the place is cool and a popular retreat in summer.

Shicong Spring This spring runs below the Yunü (Jade Girl) Terrace, in the southeast section of the Songshan Mountain. The riverbed is littered with huge boulders, and on the banks there are numerous caves.

Luyan Waterfalls Located on the southeastern slope of Taishi

Mountain. The magnificent three-tier waterfall is named after the hermit, Lu Hong, who resided here during the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Junji Peak the major peak of Taishi Mountain. From here, one can have a panoramic view of the majestic Songshan Mountain and the surrounding valleys.

Transportation

Shaolin Temple is located 13 km from Dengfeng, the county town, or 108 km from Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province. One can get there from Zhengzhou either by taking a long-distance bus for one and a half hours, or alternatively by train. Admission to the temple is 40 yuan.

Shopping

The most favourite tourist souvenirs are Shaolin weapons, of which a wide variety can be found in local shops. But one should consider the following tips before making a purchase:

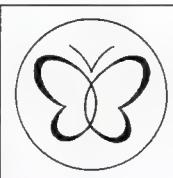
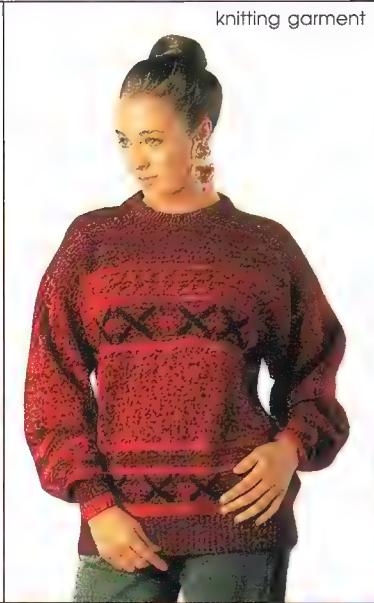
- The size of the weapon, which should be suitable for travelling by bus, train or air where space is limited.
- Be sure that your prized souvenir will not offend relevant laws and regulations of your country or region.
- Be aware of its trademark and producer.
- Contact one of the local manufacturers if buying in bulk.



A shop selling martial art weapons

The cost of a Shaolin sword or broadsword is between 32-700 yuan depending on its size, quality of material, and decorative carvings on the sheath. Services of packaging and shipping are provided.

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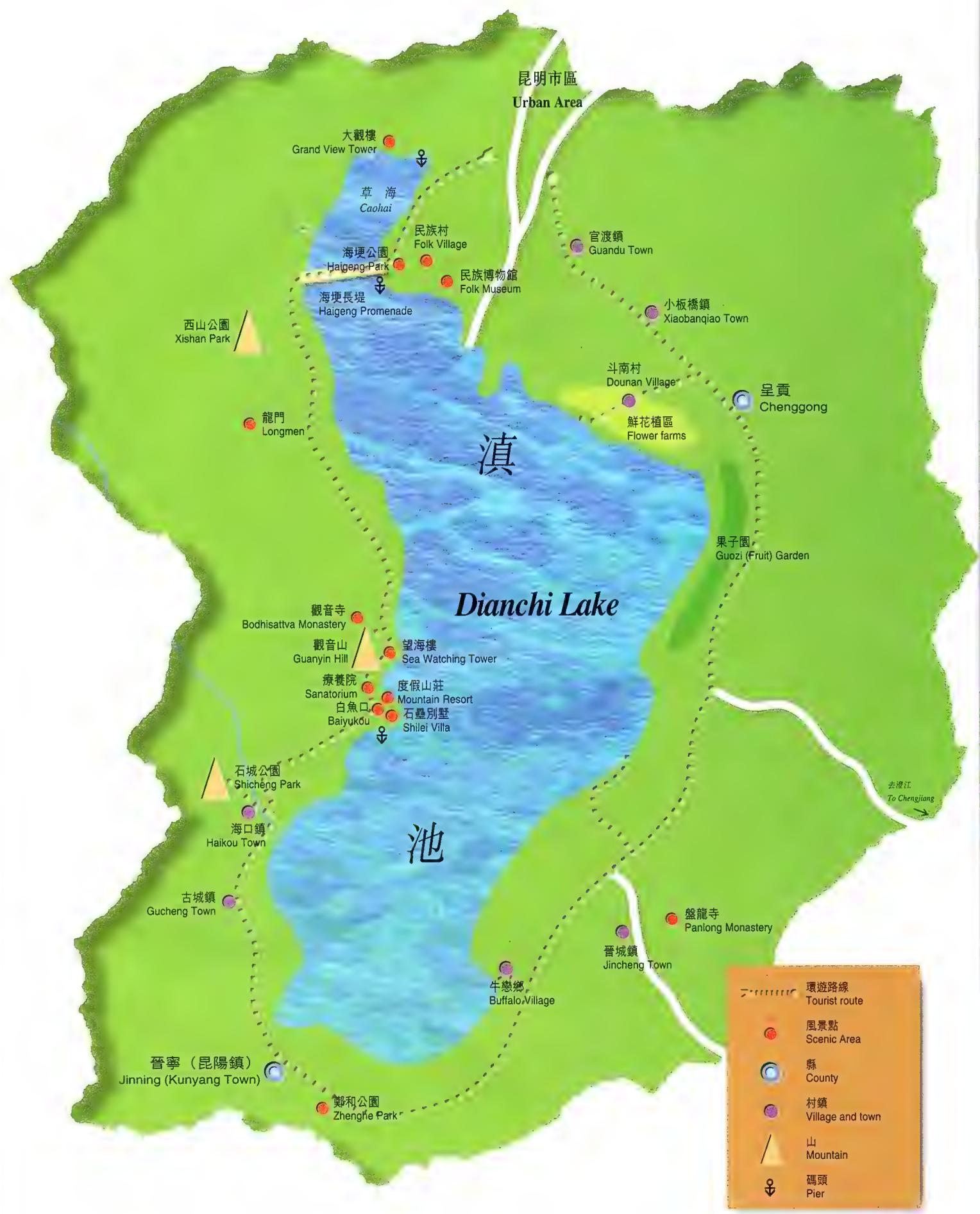
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各種機械、電子、電器、儀器儀表、工具、農具、成套生產設備、專有技術的進出口；國內外合資經營、合作生產、補償貿易；承接來圖來樣加工業務，進出口業務諮詢。

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Dianchi Lake



A JOURNEY AROUND DIANCHI LAKE

Photo & Article by Shi Baoxiu
Translated by Lingyuan

Called Dianchi, meaning a pond, it is in fact a big lake occupying a vast area and looking like a sea. The traditional route to visit the lake is to go to the Western Mountain in Kunming and observe it from above, but it can only provide the tourist with a partial view. Our correspondent has found a new way of touring Dianchi Lake by riding around it.

Why don't you have a try?



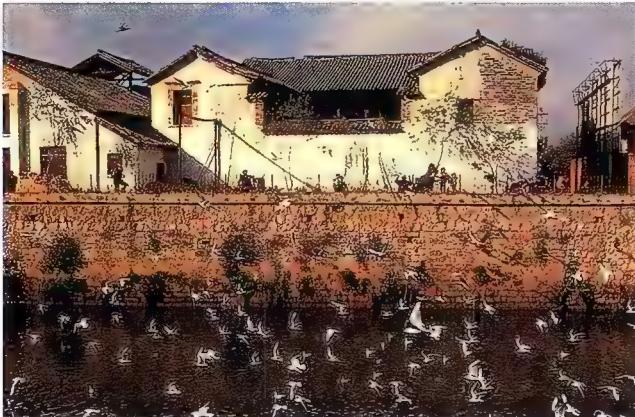
The lake looks like a sea.



Farmland in spring



The highway circling Dianchi Lake

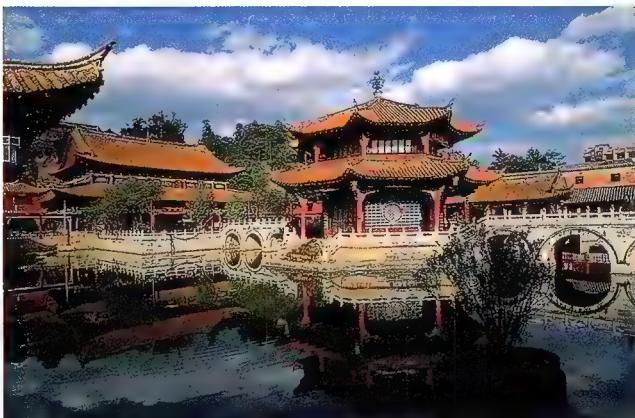


Seagulls "visiting" the villages on the east bank of Dianchi Lake

Xu Jinyan



The street has become a colourful corridor.



Yuantong Monastery

Peng Zhengge





Peng Zheng



Peng Zheng

Daguanlou (Grand View Chamber) in Kunming features a long scroll with a poem which begins like this, “*The 500-li Dianchi presses its surging presence on the eye; as I throw on some clothing and mount its shore, I am enthralled by its infinite vastness....*” The truth therein was soon borne out during my trip there.

On my way I saw groups of fishermen beating drums fastened around their waists. I mounted what is known as “Marble Tower atop the Celestial Being’s Mountain” and loitered for a while on the “Peninsular of the Free Soul”....

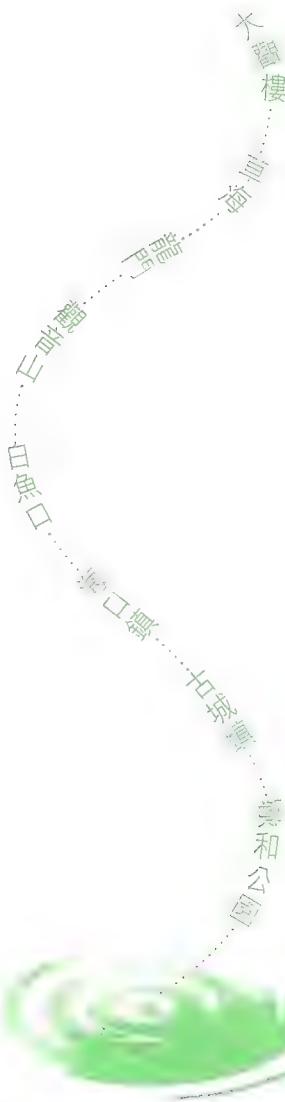
Legend has it that a horde of buffaloes from heaven were so infatuated with the Dianchi Lake that they chose to stay forever by allowing themselves to be transformed into a pile of stone. But who knows where the celestial buffaloes are now?

Are they lying on the ground of an old village, in an orchard, or on the farm where flowers grow in profusion all year round?

Left: View of villages, fields, waterweed beds and the Dianchi Lake from Xishan Mountain
Upper: A sailing boat on Dianchi Lake



FROM WESTERN MOUNTAIN TO JINNING TOWN



Another Fine Day

The weather in Kunming is beyond compare. It is winter, but the sky remains an azure blue for days on and speckled with bobbing white clouds. For many southwestern Chinese cities a blue sky at this time of year is a rarity.

Dream World from Atop the Western Mountain

We thought the fine weather too good to waste, so we rose early the next morning and drove across the long grassland dyke which separates the Dianchi Lake and the Caohai Lake. At the foot of the Western Mountain, we turned the car south and embarked on a round-the-lake trip. Now that we were close to it, this same expanse of water looked worlds apart from what we had seen from the top of the mountain.

The day before, we had marvelled at the lake from the 200-metre-high Western Mountain, and we had experienced the feeling of being part of a vast ocean broken only by the clear skyline. Dappled by the back lighting of

Dianchi Lake was real and tangible. The rape fields by the lake appeared like a golden tapestry, with bees and butterflies dancing merrily in the midst of the flowers. The slack farming season had turned the local farmers into fishermen, who manoeuvred their boats, each one as tiny as a bathing

were using a fishing method unique to the Dianchi Lake. The wooden instruments are struck to disturb the fish so that in their panic they could be lured unwittingly into the nets. What an ingenious way of fishing! The "drum" beating ended with the fishermen netting a big catch. Laying down



The willow-covered promenade outside the Holiday Villa in Baiyukou

basin, while casting their fishing nets over the water.

Drum-Beating Patrol on the Water

As we feasted our eyes on the picturesque lakeside scenery, a cacophony of wooden instruments rose from the lake. The sound was somewhat reminiscent of the beating of waist drums on the Loess Plateau of Shaanxi Province. Looking over our shoulders our eyes beheld a fleet of 30

or so black rubber dinghies. On one dinghy sat a strapping man with a tiny net in one hand and a wooden baton in the other. Swaying their hand nets to and fro in the water, they rapped and tapped their batons on hollowed-out wooden instruments.

It transpired that the men

both nets and batons, they began rowing their dinghies away, and before long they disappeared into the distance.

Guanyin Hill Overlooks the Lake

We drove on for more than 20 kilometres and reached the Guanyin (Bodhisattva) Hill. Though it lacks the sheer cliff faces of the Western Mountain, the hill stands serene and statuesque on the lakeside. There is also something ethereal about it. The car made a right turn on the ring road, and after a few more turns, pulled up before the Bodhisattva Monastery.

Only a small place, the temple with its linked cloisters evokes a feeling of restful seclusion. In the courtyard a number of ancient-looking camellia trees were in bloom with red and white flowers. Behind the back wall of the main hall stands the statue of Bodhisattva with multiple arms. It is enclosed in a glass case behind



The Workers' Sanatorium at Baiyukou

the morning sun, the boundless "ocean" glistened like liquid gold. A boat glided slowly across the lake, whose surface reflected the ever-varying cloud formations of the sky. The entire scene had been evocative of a dream world, intangible and incorporeal.

Now, at close range, the



Children's playground newly opened inside Zhenghe Park.

Whitefish Mouth – a Holiday Resort

As I looked at the lake's southern shore, I saw a heavily wooded hill with the tops of red-tiled roofs shimmering amidst the rich foliage of tall trees.

The place is known as Baiyukou (Whitefish Mouth) – indicating that in bygone days this part of the lake teemed with white fish. Some six decades ago, a rich man from Kunming was so impressed by the scenery of this peninsular that he had a house and large garden built right at the foot of the hill, so that whenever he had some leisure time he would come here to enjoy the scenery.

Today, the house, called

Stone Castle Villa, has been converted into a guesthouse to accommodate visitors from around the world. Another summer resort has been built next door in the style of ancient architecture, with yellow walls and vermilion tiles. The embankment around the lake is lined with willow trees, whose thin, wispy branches sway softly in the gentle breeze. A large flock of seagulls hover over the lake.

In March every year, the flowers at the summer resort come into full bloom, and for a fortnight the place is thronged by thousands of holidaymakers who come all the way from Kunming on sightseeing tours. In summer, Whitefish Mouth becomes a paradise for swimmers.

Back in the car, beyond the Whitefish Mouth, the highway deviated from the lakeside and we did not return to the shore

line until we had driven past the town of Haikou.

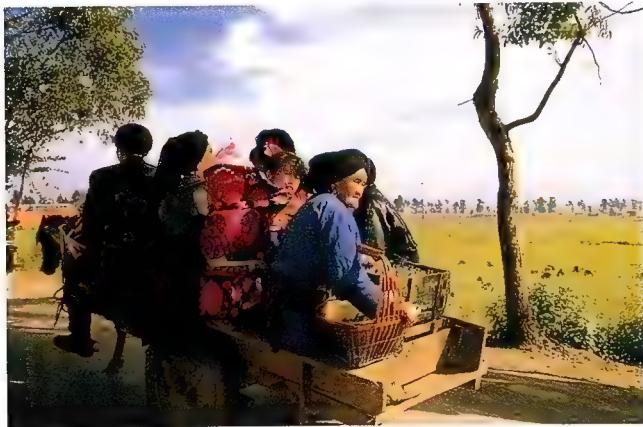
At noon we reached the town of Kunyang, the southernmost settlement, sitting opposite Kunming in the north across the Dianchi Lake.

On the top of Yueshan (Moon) Hill in Kunyang there is a public park built in memory of Zheng He, a famous Ming-dynasty navigator who happened to be a native of Kunyang. Entering the park we were disappointed to discover that all the "ancient" structures looked too modern to inspire even the remotest suggestion of nostalgia.

This disappointment, however, was soon compensated by visiting the observation terrace, situated on top of the main building, which provides a panoramic view of the lake and the surrounding landscape.



Fishermen at work on the lake



Small horse carts are popular transportation of local farmers.



Flower blossom orchards in spring



Looking south from Baiyukou



Residents of Buffalo Village



Flower farm covered with plastic sheeting to maintain a constant temperature



Rape flowers can also be served as a delicious dish.



Vegetable gardens – healthy roots and luxuriant leaves



Ducks at Haigeng Park

Legendary Site of the Celestial Buffaloes

After our visit to Kunyang was over, we travelled to the eastern shore of the Dianchi Lake.

Lakeside mountains are few and far between along this part of the lake. It looks charming and congenial with its clusters of villages, whose collection of chimneys emit curls of smoke from cooking fires high into the sky. In between these villages are stretches of verdant farmland.

After a while, the highway left the lake and extended towards the foot of another mountain.

On a section of hilly road we saw a milestone inscribed with three Chinese characters which read Niulianxiang, or Celestial Buffaloes' Place.

A strange name, and yet it sounded so familiar. It gradually dawned on me that before coming to Kunming I had read a story on the subject.

On an evening long, long ago, as the story goes, a celestial being descended to the shores of Dianchi Lake with a herd of buffaloes.

So infatuated were these animals with the beauty of the lake and the soft, sweet grass, that they completely forgot the celestial law which said they had to return to heaven before the rooster started crowing.

As a result they were turned into stone and thus became the lake's perennial companions.

The car made a left turn, and the bumpy country road narrowed, and continued to narrow the further we went. Shortly after we entered the Buffalo Village, it became so narrow that we had to get out of the car and walk.

The houses there are made of

bright red beaten earth, and where some of the walls were crumbling with age, they exposed the clam and snail shells which had been mixed in with the earth. The street meandered its way through the village, and at its narrowest section pedestrians had to file by each other. The stone-carved doors and window frames had grown green with moss, revealing just how ancient the houses were.

A tiny stream, running parallel to the street, empties itself into a pool with a blue stone rim, where women were washing their clothes and vegetables.

Occasionally a man would emerge to fetch water, which he carried in wooden pails dangling from both ends of a shoulder pole, with some child or dog in tow.

Orchard of a Hundred Fruits

Having left the Buffalo Village we found ourselves in the midst of a cluster of thriving vegetable gardens. Beyond, the Dianchi Lake lapped at the shore, making pleasant splashing sounds.

Perhaps, in times long past, this was where the celestial buffaloes relished the forage grass. In actual fact, the eastern shore of

the lake has plenty of places which are fertile enough to bewitch celestial buffaloes.

We continued our trip north, and soon we reached a fork in the road, where Jinning and Chenggong counties shared their boundaries. Chenggong County is famed as an area for fruit. In the fifth and sixth lunar months each year, the numerous orchards in the county are crowded with visitors from Kunming. They sit around a tree laden with fruit, and enjoy nature's endowment.

The local custom allows buyers who come to the orchards to eat their fill, free of charge.

The orchards grow a good assortment of fruits, such as peach, plum, apricot, pear, apple, Chinese pear-leaved crab-apple, persimmon, hawthorn berries, loquat and cherry. And each fruit features different strains. Peaches, for instance, come in at least a dozen varieties. From April to October, local fruit growers are able to provide the market with a constant supply of fresh fruit.

In bygone days, some of the fruits were presented to the emperors as royal gifts. Hence the name of the county of Chenggong, which means "source of imperial attribute".



Fishermen spend their leisure time in winter making fishing nets



FROM BUFFALO VILLAGE TO CHENGGONG COUNTY





A Riot of Flowers at Dounan Village

When I first arrived in Chenggong County, I decided I had come at the wrong time of year. I had neither the good luck to sample the delicious fruit, nor to see peach and plum trees in their full glory – apparently the season of flowers was still more than one month away.



Chenggong is also a vegetable farming area.

I had not expected that two hours later, when the car pulled into Dounan Village in the north of Chenggong, I would have the opportunity to feast my eyes on flowers of all seasons.

The Dounan flower market, half the size of a football pitch, was filled with both flowers and throngs of people. Long before I had even set foot inside its perimeter, the heady fragrance of roses began to assail my nostrils. The fragrance was so overwhelming, it threatened to take my breath away. I had been to all sorts of places and on all sorts of occasions, but I had never seen a flower market of this magnitude. There, roses, carnations, lilies,

nasturtiums, chrysanthemums, calamus, etc., formed a maze of colourful corridors. Thousands of buyers roamed the market in search of their favourite products – some were florists from Kunming, some were agents of overseas flower companies, and others were simply casual onlookers who went there for the fun of it.

lake, and mounting the long embankment surrounding the lake, we beheld a field strewn with plastic cloches which linked with each for miles on end. The warm temperature inside these greenhouses allows flowers to be supplied even during winter.

Dusk was gathering as we made our way back to Kunming.

The road took us past the ancient town of Guandu, which was an important ferry crossing during the Nanzhao period of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). More than a millennium later, the lake today has shrunk considerably and the crossing has become part of the farmland. Only the ancient temple and pagoda remain as witnesses to the temple's past grandeur and popularity.

Eventually the city of Kunming and its myriad of electric lights came into sight. Our journey around the Dianchi Lake thus came to an end.

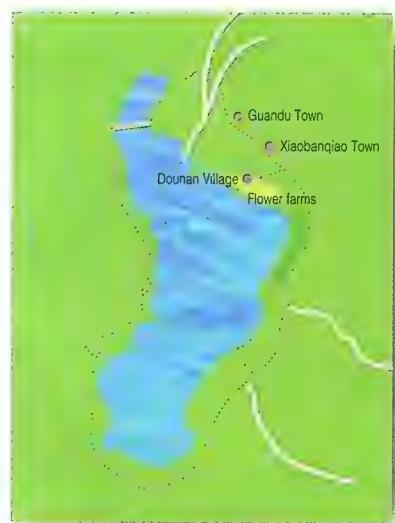
A World of Flowers

Following the road that leads from the village to the edge of the

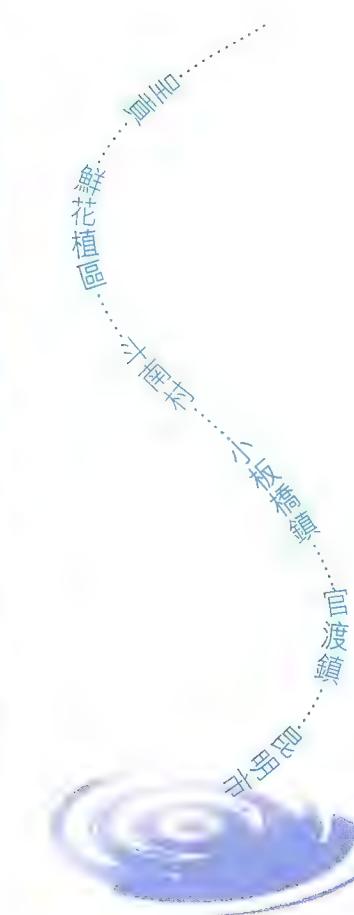


The flourishing Dounan Village flower market in Chenggong

Left page, Upper: The boundless 500-li Dianchi Lake
Left page, Lower: Every corner of Dianchi is picturesque.



FROM DOUNAN VILLAGE TO GUANDU TOWN



TIPS ON TOURING DIANCHI LAKE

Scenic Spots Around Kunming

Yuantong Monastery Situated in the south of Yuantong Mountain the monastery is the largest in Kunming's urban district. "The Best View of Yuantong" Building was built in the reign of Kangxi in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) while the Yuantong Great Hall was built in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Inside the hall is a Yuan-style giant Buddha statue with a dragon pillar on both sides.

A Thai-style hall with marble walls has also been built.



Yuantong Monastery

Cuihu Park The park is linked together by pavilions, terraces and long corridors. Thousands of seagulls come to the lake every winter, making birdwatching a popular activity for tourists to Kunming.

Qiongzhu Monastery Located on Yu'an Mountain, northwest of suburban Kunming, Qiongzhu Monastery is well-known for its 500 Arhat statues, each of them showing its own character, appearance and shape.

Haigeng Park The promenade is in an advantageous position, from where one can view the Xishan Mountain and the picturesque Dianchi Lake at dusk. Tourists can also board a boat at the pier for a short tour of the lake.

Ethnic Culture Village In the village visitors can see the various styles of houses, enjoy colourful

song and dance performances, taste various dishes and buy a wide variety of handicrafts.

Yuantongshan Zoo Located on the summit of Yuantong Mount-



Cuihu

Peng Zheng

tain in the northeastern corner of the city, just opposite Cuihu Lake. More than 100 species of wildlife are housed there.

Xishan Longmen (Dragon Gate) 24 km from Kunming and close to Dianchi Lake.

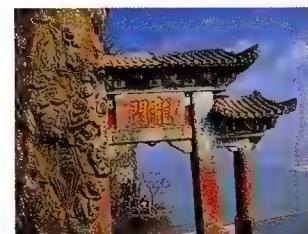
Xishan Mountain Scenic Area encompasses many scenic spots such as Puxian Monastery, Sheng'an Temple, Huating Monastery, and Taihua Monastery.



most famous towers in China. From here one can enjoy the view of Caohai as well as the Xishan Mountain.

Golden Temple Located on Yingwu (Parrot) Mountain, 7 km from the city of Kunming, the Golden Temple is in fact a copper structure imitating a common wooden temple. Its beams, pillars, arches, windows, statues of gods, altars and burners are all cast in copper.

Black Dragon Pool Located 14 km north of Kunming, at the foot



Longmen



Golden Temple

Dongfeng Square At the junction of Dongfeng Road East and Beijing Road in the city centre is a vast area set aside as a garden. It is an ideal place for Kunming residents to take a rest, perform their morning exercises and admire the birdlife.

Grand View Tower Located 2 km from the city, this is one of the



Ethnic Culture Village

Xu Jinyan

of Longquan (Dragon Spring) Mountain. Its attraction lies in its garden. Nearby is the Longquan Taoist Temple housing a collection of rare flowers such as Tang plum, Song cypress, Ming camellia and Qing magnolia.

Highway Around the Lake

The Dianchi Lake, also known as Kunming Lake, is by local tradition called a "sea". The fourth largest freshwater lake in China, Dianchi extends for approximately 300 square kilometres with a shoreline of 163 kilometres. Transport has been made convenient with the construction of a highway around the lake.

It is advisable to rent a minibus from one of the travel agencies or hotels in Kunming if you are travelling in a group.

Idyllic Views on the Northern Shore The Dianchi Lake is divided in two by a long embankment. The northern part is known as Caohai (Grass Sea), where the scenery consists mostly of country views, gardens, and places of historical interest. Major tourist attractions there include the Grand View Park, the Haigeng Park, and the Yunnan Ethnic Culture Village.

Landscape on the Western Shore On a tourist route which extends for 40 kilometres from the Western Mountain Scenic Zone in the north to Haikou Town in the south, two scenic spots can be reached - the Guanyin (Bodhisattva) Hill and Whitefish Mouth.

Ancient Structures on the Southern Shore Kunyang is the hometown of Zheng He. The park and museum in memory of this Ming-dynasty navigator are on top of the Yueshan Hill. The Baihe (White Crane) Hill features a stone carving of the Heavenly King, crafted during the Nanzhao period of the Tang Dynasty. To the southeast of Jincheng sits the

Panlong (Coiled Dragon) Monastery.

Rural Landscape on the Eastern Shore

The eastern shore of the Dianchi Lake is a vast stretch of flatland studded with orchids and fishing villages, criss-crossed with rivers and streams. Chenggong County is famed in China for its numerous orchards, flower gardens and vegetable plots.

Travel Services Yunnan, popular among tourists from around the world, has no lack of travel agencies. Most of them



Golden Dragon Hotel

have offices in Kunming, operating tours to Xishuangbanna, Dali, the Lijiang River, the Stone Forest of Lunan and other places. Special tourist services are available as well, such as mountaineering, adventure tours, cross-country motor cycling, and hot-air ballooning.

Hotels The Kunming Hotel on Beijing Road is a favourite of overseas tourists who arrange their own itinerary because of its low rent, convenient services and central location. Daily room rates in the hotel are 250 yuan for a standard suite and 180 yuan for a standard guestroom. The Yunnan Youth Travel Service operates from right inside the hotel's lobby, and the hotel is next door to a bus and air ticket office.

Food and Local Delicacies

No visitor leaves Kunming without



Yunnan-style Baozai rice

tasting steamed chicken and "cross bridge" rice noodle, the two Kunming-style snacks. But for those ambitious enough to sample all the ethnic delicacies, the Yunyuan and Nanyuan restaurants are the places to go. Both restaurants serve more than 100 different, snacks and dishes. The address of Yunyuan Restaurant: 2/F Centre of Local Delicacies, 328 Tuodong Road, Kunming (for reservations, call 3130783). Nanyuan Restaurant: 260 Luosiwan, Shuanglong Bridge (for reservations, call 3137225).

Native and Special Products

These include Pu'er tea, Xuanwei ham and dried mushrooms. Don't buy them from the waiting hall inside the airport, as prices here are usually one-third higher.

Avoiding the Traffic Jams by Riding a Bicycle Individual travellers might like to tour the city by bicycle. This is a popular way of getting around as it is rather easy in Kunming, which is not a large city after all, and most of the tourist attractions are situated in the city or its vicinity. Bicycles can

be rented from the hotel for a daily rental of 20 yuan.

Tourist Buses Buses head out daily from the railway station for Western Mountain Scenic Zone. Direct bus routes are also available from downtown to such places as the Qiongzhu Monastery, the Golden Hall and the Black Dragon Pool.

The Thrill of Cruising the Dianchi Lake The boats leave at the wharf near the Grand



Pier for tourist boats

View Park, and take passengers through the Grass Sea to the Haigeng Park, or sail directly across the lake to Whitefish Mouth. Motorboating on the lake is yet another thrilling experience.

Tourist Groups Many Hong Kong travel services organise group tours to Kunming virtually every month. Five-day tours, which cover such places as Kunming, the Stone Forest of Lunan and Dali, are being operated by the China Travel Service and many other agencies.

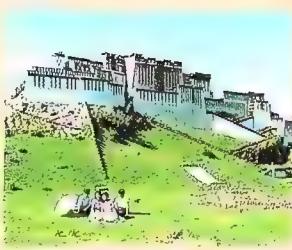
Weather Kunming is free from the heat waves of summer and the bitter cold of winter. But do remember, the air can be a bit dry, and temperatures drop dramatically at night. Face cream, lip balm and warm clothing are recommended.

A GLIMPSE AT THE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD CIVILIZATIONS OF CHINA

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A C T I O N

RAFTING Down THE MAUI RIVER

PHOTO BY ANDY







Few canoeists or white-water enthusiasts have tried their hand at the Maling River. Partly because it is tucked deep in the mountains of southwest Guizhou Province and partly because the adventure calls for nerves of steel. From above, the Maling River looks like a dark, deep scar inflicted on the earth. Hemmed in by russet-coloured perpendicular cliffs, it seethes with such fury that it threatens to banish to Hell anyone attempting to tame it!

Last summer I was visiting Guizhou when Mr. Liu Jiakun of

the Xingyi City Travel Service travelled 380 kilometres from Guiyang to take me on a rafting of the Maling River. In no time at all we were heading along the cement-surfaced Guizhou-Huangguoshu Highway. Soon after we drove past the renowned Huangguoshu Waterfalls, the highway became a bumpy, spiralling road up into the mountains.

The Three-Metre Dinghies Bobbed Up and Down

We stopped overnight in Xingyi and, getting up early the next morning, travelled to Maling Town a dozen kilometres to the north. A group of young men and women from Kunming were already gathered under a huge camphor tree by a stone arch bridge. Having had enough of the tranquil Cuihu Lake and the scenic Dianchi Lake of Kunming, they came here,

riding on an adrenaline high, to tame the truculent Maling River. We watched them put on bright yellow life jackets and inflate two rubber dinghies. Once lowered

the outside could be used for rescue purpose.

Rising from the Wumeng Mountains, the river drops nearly 1,000 metres as it slashes its way



into the river, they got in one by one, hand in hand. The three-metre dinghies, bobbed up and down on the water. Nylon ropes fastened inside the dinghies allowed passengers to hold on tight and prevent themselves from being washed overboard while those on

for 80 kilometres through Xingyi. The river hissed and foamed audibly as I ambled towards its bank. As I stood there, a cold draught wafted in, instantly drying the perspiration on my body. Given the rapid water flow tailgating is taboo, so it was only after the two



rubber dinghies had drifted more than 30 metres away did our young captain release his vessel. Pushing his four-metre-long bamboo punt-pole against the shore, he manoeuvred our rubber raft smoothly towards the centre of the river, putting us at the mercy of the racing rapids. The sensation of losing control of one's own fate was hypnotic. The views on both banks were rather photogenic and I was torn between the safety of sitting in my seat and standing up to shoot some pictures – if I sat it was likely the seething waves could knock my camera out of my hand at any moment, and if I



stood up I ran the risk of being swept overboard. While letting the golden photo opportunities slip by, I began to worry about my two cameras as quite a few people had lost their equipment in a transient fury of the river. Mr. Liu handed me a plastic bag; I gratefully placed my cameras inside and tied it to the nylon rope inside the raft.

The River Bed Became Steeper and Steeper

The river bed steadily became steeper. The two dinghies in front of us suddenly picked up speed and plunged into the foaming current. Before I realised it, our rubber raft faltered before being swept down with the torrential water as if drawn by a strong magnetic field. Our captain worked in

rhythm with the flow. Squatting down and then standing up, he manoeuvred the vessel as he would a cart. We covered more than 100 metres in mere seconds. According to Mr. Liu, the place we had just passed was called "Wild Horse Rapid". It was only the first of the six hurdles along our 12-kilometre navigation, the other five being the Bank of Ferocious Tiger, the Ridge of Galloping Rhinoceros, the Pass of Soaring Dragon, the Pond of Happiness and the Bank of Giant Waterfalls.

Apprehensive at the loss of so many excellent photo opportunities, I pleaded with the captain to bring the raft closer to shore and slow down a little so that I could take some pictures. He flatly refused. Apparently, the river bank is infested with razor-sharp rocks which could easily scuttle our vessel.

The Sky Seemed to Have Been Reduced to a Mere Slit

As we were about to reach the Bank of Ferocious Tiger, the river narrowed considerably. The steep cliffs squeezed the river into a strip, our dinghy barely had

a few inches leeway on either side. Suddenly, at the edge of a watershed, our raft was sent airborne. We were catapulted into the air to be sent crashing down, and a column of water showered the raft and its passengers. I took off my shoes and mentally prepared myself to jump into the river



as the raft crashed through one wave after another. Eventually the river calmed down. Craning our necks we saw the sky above was reduced to a mere slit, making us feel we were at the bottom of a deep ravine. Dusk was gathering. On both sides the stone walls were damp with green moss and we could hear the eerie sound of dripping water. So quiet were the surroundings that we could hear our hearts pounding. The silence was broken only by the occasional sound of punt-poles moving through the water. Terrified, I rowed my paddle for all I was worth. After what seemed an eternity, the raft went through a



long, winding course, the cliffs opened up, and the golden sun penetrated the valley and cast rainbow coloured streaks onto the water. The river swayed gently, and we had the illusion of floating on a magic ribbon of multiple hues.

The Pass of Soaring Dragon, the Most Sensational Section

The Ridge of Galloping Rhinoceros was said to be the most perilous part of the Maling River. Here the rapids were so powerful that they could toss a raft three to five metres into the air before sending it crashing down with a deafening bang. The description alone was enough to strike terror in the hearts of anyone attempting to navigate the river. For this reason, the protruding rocks were blasted away and the river dredged. Today the thrills of the Ridge of Galloping Rhinoceros had become a thing of the past. The Pass of Soaring Dragon was now the most sensational of all the river sections. Added to its big drop and narrow course, a large bend was formed by a series of round boulders as large as houses. Beyond this bend lay two



Previous page: White-water rafting on the Maling River proves to be a most exhilarating experience.
Left & right page: Thrills are guaranteed on each of the four perilous sections on the Maling River.
Lower centre: In all solemnity, the captain looks as if he were driving a horse-drawn cart.

menacing whirlpools. A sober mind and good navigation skills were required for the captain, together with good co-ordination on the part of the passengers. If someone was thrown overboard by the surging water, he had no alternative but to wait to be rescued. In my nervousness I placed all my hope for our safety in the hands of our captain, who told us to grab the nylon ropes tightly and lie low. The raft bolted forward like an arrow. During the split second before it was about to hit one of the boulders, the captain pushed his punt-pole ever so lightly. A wave surged, raising our raft an unbelievable three metres into the air. For a moment the raft coasted sideways, as if the river had just turned upside down. My heart missed a beat, and I had the foreboding of eminent disaster. However, Mr. Liu acted as if nothing had happened. Using a few dexterous strokes of his paddle, he managed to straighten the bow and level the raft before it sailed past the two yawning whirlpools. Suddenly the world around me became quiet, and the vessel



drifted smoothly downstream. Inwardly I congratulated myself on the decision to tie my cameras to the rope. They would have certainly been thrown into the water during the brief moment that our raft struggled for balance.

The Giant Waterfalls, Scene of Unique Landform

The river became gentler beyond the Pass of Soaring Dragon. Only then did we realise that we were thoroughly drenched. A breeze started to blow and we shivered with cold. In the distance, an ancient stone arch bridge sat astride two lofty cliffs. I was told that more than 350 years ago, Xu Xiake, a celebrated travel-

ler, crossed the Maling River by this bridge to enter the county of Xingyi. In his travelogue he said of the river, "Pounding both banks, the [Maling] river cuts the rocks into vertical cliffs."

Long before we had reached the Shore of Giant Waterfalls, its muffled sound penetrated the bottom of our raft and then reached our ears. When the waterfalls came into sight, it roared down a tiered cliff of several dozen metres. As the water thundered down it crushed on the rocks, resulting in a colourful curtain of dense mist reflecting a cluster of rainbows. The scene is unique to the karst landform of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau. As the water falls on the cliffs its rich calcium carbonate content deposits itself on the rock face. Simultaneously carbon dioxide is released. The calcium carbonate continuously thickens, forming huge layers which now resemble unfolded fans, swirling skirts, half-opened lotus leaves and overhanging mushrooms. The landform extends for miles dividing the waterfalls into sections.

Hanging above the terminus of our route was a cable car line constructed with a private investment of several hundred thousand yuan. As the cable car steadily gained height, the Maling River looked like a ribbon enchantingly wrapped around the jumble of rocky outcrops. In a few years'



time, the Nanning-Kunming Railway will be complete and a train station established in Xingyi. By that time, we were told, the Maling River will become accessible to rafters from all corners of the world.

The Joy of Success

We docked at the White Sand and climbed up the bank, everyone being totally soaked as if we'd just been rescued from the river. The young women from Kunming were so excited that they gave each other a bear hug, saying that they could not wait to tell their friends their rafting experience. Mr. Liu quietly lit a cigarette, but I could see the smile on his face. ☺

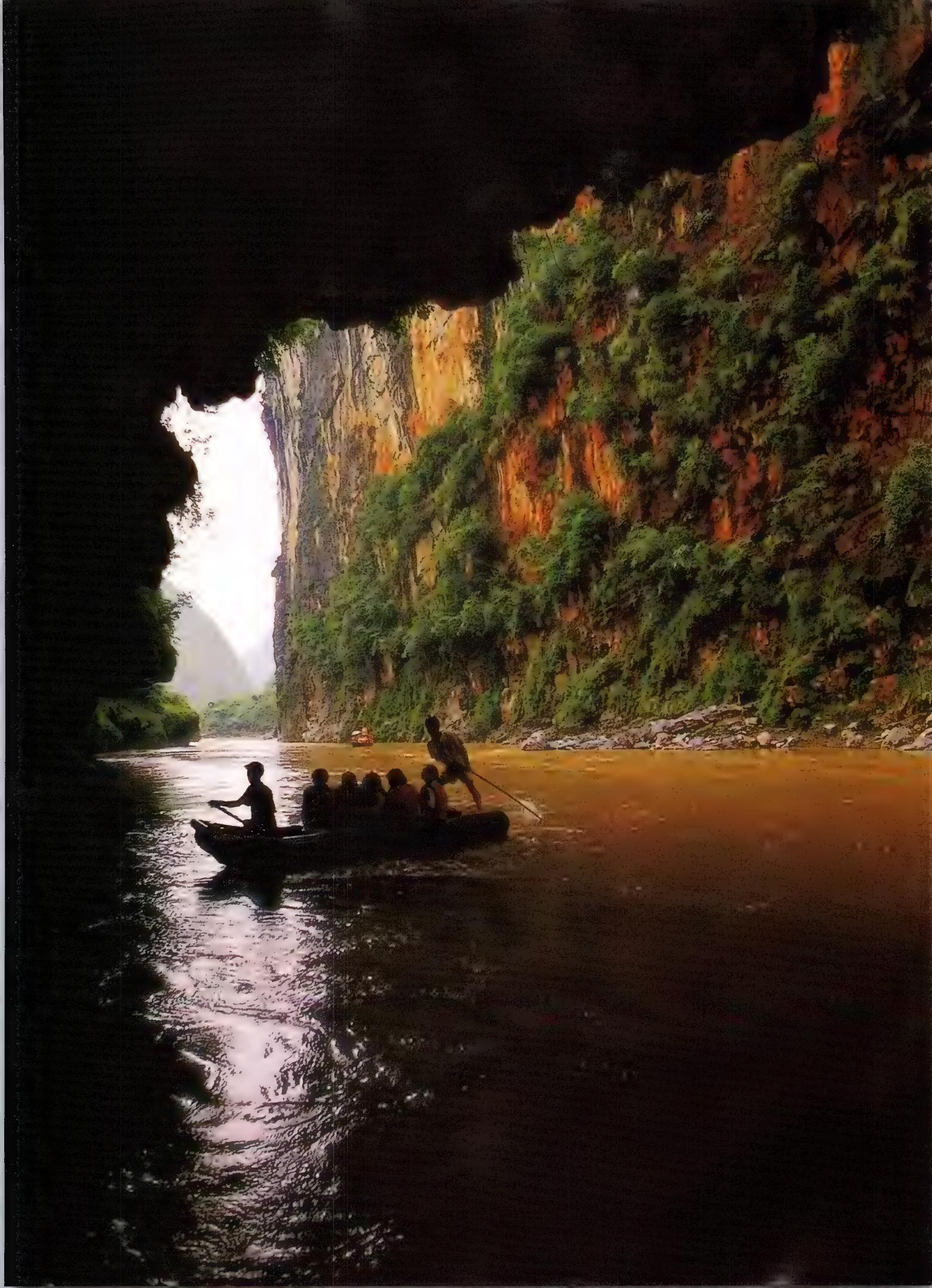


Upper left: Relaxed under a sun umbrella, these thrill-seekers have brought colour and life to the Maling River.

Lower left: Everyone ends up drenched and bedraggled.

Upper right: Following an ancient stone stairway, tourists can see the Giant Waterfalls from the other side.

Right page: Passengers look as if they were being transported into the depths of the earth.





advised, as the river is hemmed in by perpendicular rock cliffs with a drop of ten metres for every kilometre. This is not a sport for the elderly, children, or non-swimmers, nor for anyone suffering from a heart condition. All participants are requested to wear a life jacket. Cameras and camcorders should be protected in plastic bags. Other than the Maling River, Wanfenglin is another scenic spot in Xingyi. Those who do not want to stay in Xingyi can set off in the afternoon for the six-hour drive to the Lunan Stone Forest. They may visit the stone forests the next morning, spending the night at Kunming, which is a little more than an hour's drive away, and leave for home on the fourth day. If time permits, a visit to a village inhabited by the ethnic Buyi people is interesting and it is also possible to visit a batik workshop in Anshun. Satisfaction is almost certainly guaranteed on this tourist route.

Those interested in navigating the Maling River should contact Xingyi Tourist Service of Guizhou.

The scenery along the Maling River is picture-perfect.

For Your Reference

A new national scenic spot, the Maling River is part of a tourist belt which also includes two other scenic attractions, the famous Huangguoshu Waterfalls and the Lunan Stone Forests.

Transportation: Every morning a number of buses leave the Guiyang long-distance bus station for Xingyi, where the Maling River

is situated. The cost is 30 yuan per person. Night buses, costing 55 yuan, also operate, providing the comfort of reclining seats. But be advised, the mountain roads on the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau are rather hazardous.

Food and Lodging: Hiring a taxi can give one the flexibility of a stop over at the Huangguoshu Waterfalls. Therefore, one can

have lunch at Huaijiang Town, Guanling County. Visitors may stay the night at Xingyi Hotel with a rate of 150 yuan per night.

Safety Precautions: Trips down the Maling River start out in the morning and cost 30 yuan per person. The river has an abundant water flow and is therefore open all year round, but summer is the best season. Attention to safety is



The next issue of China Tourism celebrates colourful autumn, and invites

you to follow the **Sichuan-Tibet highway** into the mountains

to catch the **wild beauty** of west China. Then we head east to



Huang Yanhong



Xie Guanghui

Suzhou in Jiangsu Province to visit a city 2,500 years old and oozing

with culture. Then we shall go west again to show you five ways to explore

beautiful **Guilin by bicycle**.



Shi Baoxiu

After that we shall go to the Liangshan area in Sichuan to attend the

Torch Festival held by the Yi



Huang Yanhong

People. In the column "Peoples" we shall introduce one of China's

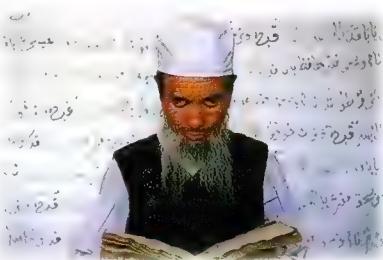
largest minority ethnic groups, the

Hui, who are **Chinese Muslims** with their own autonomous



Xiao Juqing

region in Northwest China. Finally,



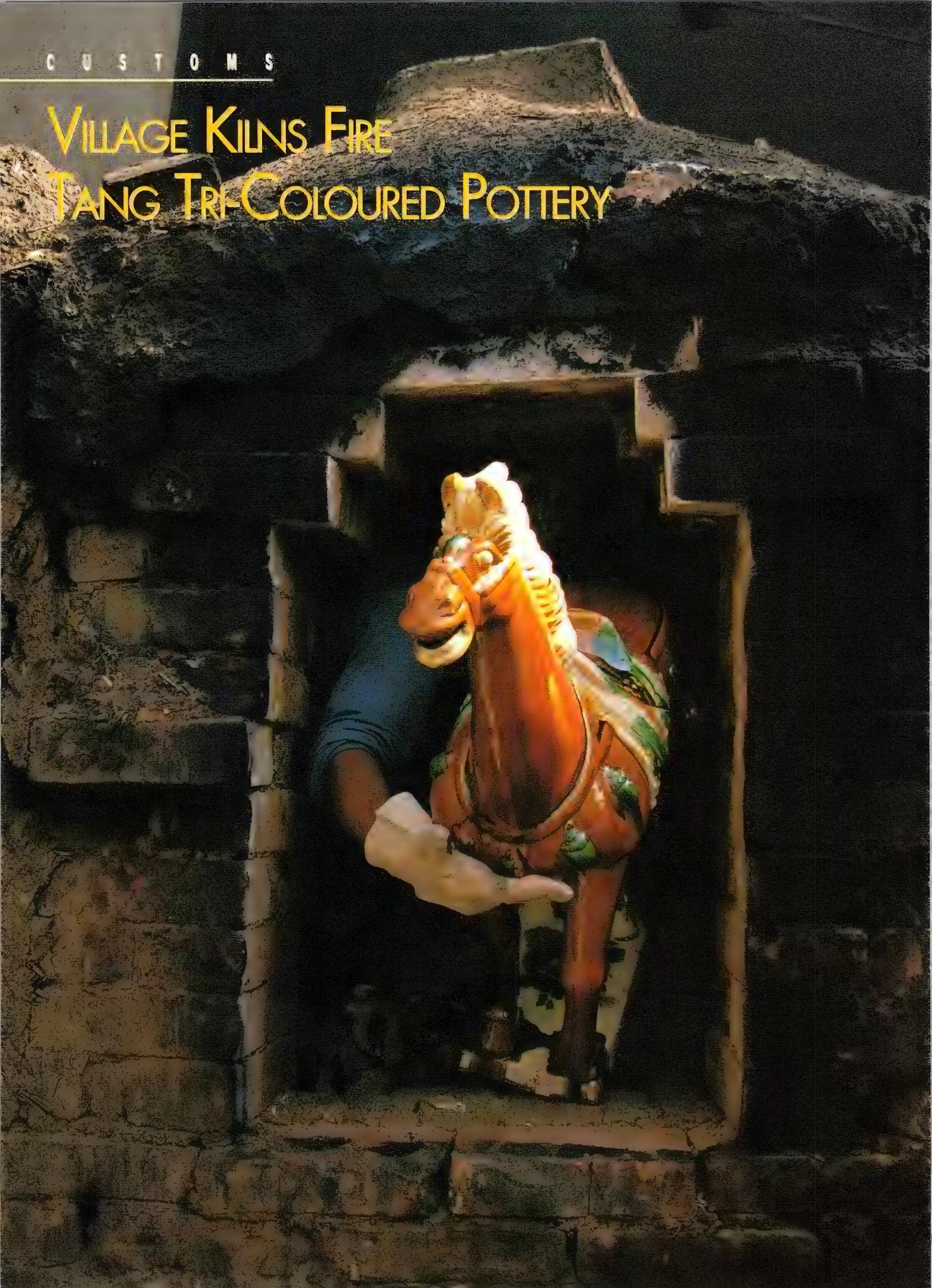
Catherine Lee

our "City Profile" will tell you all about **Dalian**, an important coastal

city in Northeast China, where an international fashion fair is held yearly.

C U S T O M S

VILLAGE KILNS FIRE TANG TRI-COLOURED POTTERY



It is regrettable that few of the Tang-dynasty three-colour glazed pottery can be seen today. Even the three-colour burial objects, in the Museum of Ancient Tombs in Luoyang, are said to have been replaced with replicas to prevent robbery.

A World of Replicas

Visitors to the city of Luoyang, however, will find themselves in a world of Tang tri-coloured pottery whether visiting the city itself, or the market near the Longmen Grottoes. What greets their eyes is a large array of clay horses, camels, beautiful female figures, Buddhist statuettes and a large variety of vases and jars. These are not national treasures; they are modern replicas reproduced by local farmers.

When I was in Luoyang not long ago, I was attracted by these objects, and imagined that there must be a story behind them. I asked a stallholder to take me to the Art Pottery Factory of the Ancient Capital.

Household Kilns

The owner of the factory was a burly fellow named Guo. Underneath the smart Western suit he wore, I could see he was a 100-per cent farmer of the Central Plains. He drove his own jeep, and in 15 minutes took me to a village named Nanshan near the Mengjin County seat.

At the village entrance, we were met head-on by a truck rumbling shakily out of the village, fully loaded with pottery horses and camels. When we entered the village, I found there were all kinds of pottery articles on display over doors and on roof ridges. Almost every household was a mini-factory for firing tri-coloured pottery articles, and those on display served as their advertisements.

Mass Production

The factory run by Guo was one of the larger ones in the village, employing 30 workers. As soon as he arrived, he was accosted by

Tri-coloured glazed pottery from the Tang Dynasty are fine works of art and national treasures. However, visitors to Luoyang will find themselves immersed in a world of Tang Tri-coloured pottery.



Xie Guanghui

Left: A shining tri-coloured horse after the second firing

Above: An imitation Tang vase made today

buyers who wished to negotiate a bulk order.

The workshops were rather small, but there was a clear division of work. The mould design was supervised by two young men, who, having failed to pass their university entrance examinations, had been recruited by Guo to utilize their painting talents. They sculpted birds, animals and all kinds of objects in clay and then made moulds from them. Objects were then mass-produced from the moulds by the casting workshop. Whether the factory had good sales or not, largely depended on the skill of these two young designers.

The casting workers poured liquid clay into the moulds. When the clay was dry, the moulds were opened to reveal horses, camels and dogs. These were then fitted with component parts, polished and further dried by the delicate hands of a group of girls and then placed in a kiln to be fired until they became hard like unglazed white biscuits, and then painted with coloured glaze. Once the glaze was dry, they were fired again. After the second firing, they were transformed into magnificent tri-coloured pottery.

Skilled Hands

I pointed my finger at a large tri-coloured pottery horse, which was big enough for a five-year-old child to ride, and asked a potter how much it would cost. The potter gestured the figure eight. "Eight hundred yuan?" I asked. He smiled and said, "Eighty yuan is quite enough. If you take it to the market, you can sell it for 150-160 yuan." It was indeed a good price.

Leaving Guo's factory, I walked around the village and came across a doorway with seven or eight ancient Tang tri-coloured pottery female figures placed carelessly on top. Their colour glaze had faded and they were slightly damaged here and there. Why place them there? Was the family not afraid they might be stolen?

I called in on the family and found that the head of the household had a skilled hand for making imitations. I was further surprised



to find that his cellar was piled high with tri-coloured objects like the storage room of a museum. There were pottery ladies in ancient costume, ethnic minority figures, plump horses, and laden camels. The ladies had their faces covered with fine yellow clay as if they were 1,000-year-old objects that had just been unearthed from some ancient tomb.

Ancient Art Revival

In the same cellar, I picked up a "Tang horse" which could easily be mistaken for the genuine article, and paid a price ten times higher than the large pottery horse I had seen before. As soon as I walked out of his door, I was greeted by an old man holding the hand of his toddler grandson. He invited

me to go over to his house. Although I agreed, I wondered if he was going to make a complaint to me, since he knew I was a reporter.

I was wrong. The old man told me he was the pioneer for reproducing Tang-dynasty tri-coloured

pottery in the village. When he was young, he worked as a technician at the Luoyang Research Institute of Pottery and Porcelain Art and participated in reviving the art of making Tang tri-coloured pottery, a skill which had been lost for many centuries. They studied the

techniques and the composition of the glaze. After they succeeded, he was invited to the Xi'an College of Art to lecture to the students of the Department of Industrial Art. After his retirement a few years ago, he would spend his leisure time making clay sculptures, firing and glazing them. Some young men in the village became interested and asked him to be their teacher. He never expected them to turn the skills into a money-making venture. Kilns were built one after another in the village, and pottery articles in traditional and modern styles poured out of the village like a rising tide.

It was a good thing to revive an old art and popularize it, said the old man, but as the articles were mass-produced in such huge quanti-

ties, who would take the time to calm down and think of further perfecting the techniques and skills?

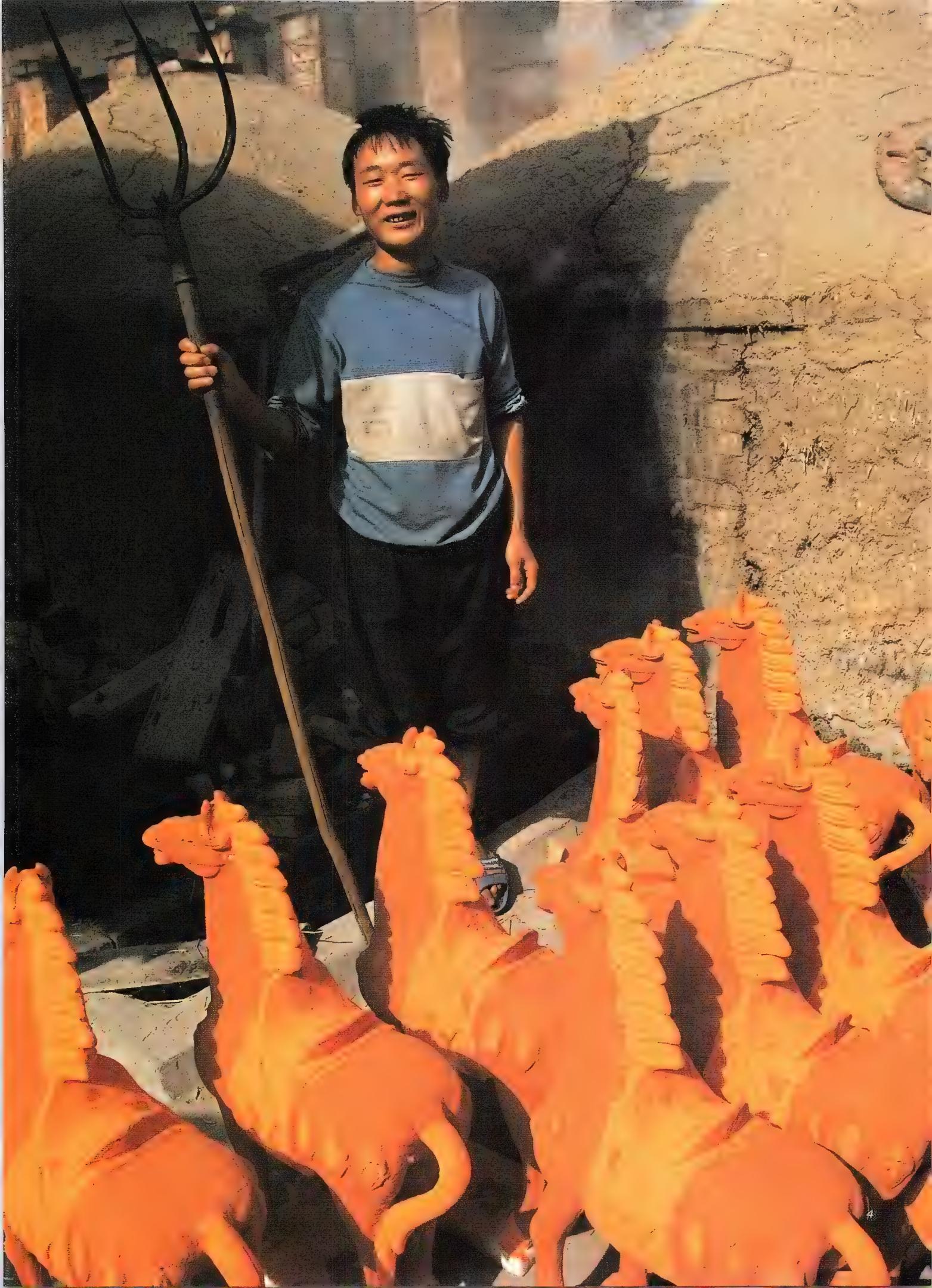
Photos & Article by

Shi Baoxiu

Translated by Tang Bowen



1. Individual households display their tri-coloured pottery.
2. Molded earthenware are fired in the kiln before they are covered with glaze.
3. Moulds used for mass-production
4. Clay horses ready to be fired in the kiln



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IN SEARCH OF MY "CUPPA"



In China drinking tea is a long-established pastime. Nowadays, teahouses of all descriptions have mushroomed throughout the country, many of them high class with distinctive decorations and features. I have tried a few and they have left me a lingering impression.

The Tea King Palace

Once inside the Tea King Palace, you feel as if you had stepped into a teahouse reserved for the nobles or rich of the Ming and Qing dynasties. The character "cha" (meaning tea) carved into the wood in 18 different styles of calligraphy from various dynasties gives the teahouse a strong ancient atmosphere. In the tea cupboard are containers labelled Dragon Well Tea, Buddha Hand Tea and Iron Bodhisattva Tea as well as an exquisite tin tea caddy belonging to a regular customer of the teahouse containing his own provision. A display chest shows a whole range of tea



Xie Guanghui

utensils, including a Spring Douse Kettle and the Dragon and Phoenix Colour Changing Cups. In the centre of the hall is a statue of Lu Yu (733-804), regarded as a connoisseur of Chinese tea, with a nonchalant expression on his face, perhaps a mood derived from a great deal of tea drinking! The tables are made from sections of thick tree trunks, giving an impression of primitive, yet ancient elegance.

As you sit down at one of the tables, a girl clad in traditional ancient costume moves up to you, wheeling her tea trolley laden with a huge selection of items associated with tea, including a mineral stone which is a device to further filter the mineral water used, increasing the tea drinkers' confidence in the quality of the water. It is unlikely that nobles of Ming and Qing times had the benefit of this quality of water.

From the hundred or so varieties of tea on offer, I ordered the Han

and Tang Moon Tea baked by the Tea King Palace itself. The tea girl began her skilful work – first stoking the fire, then picking the tea, and then performing a series of "high pouring" and "low stewing".... The first pot is not served to the guest and the second and third are all poured into a "Justice Cup" which is then "low-poured" into the "Fragrance Cup", and then into the tea cups ready to serve. She offered the empty "Fragrance Cup" to me. My nostrils were filled with a rich, refreshing fragrance.

While gracefully performing the "tea ritual", the girl told the story of "The Great Red Robe (the name of a tea)" and also answered my questions on the subject of tea. All this was accompanied by the sound of a female musician playing a melodious ancient tune on a zheng, adding

Upper: Drinking tea while watching the performance, a feast for both the mouth and the eye



Chan Yai Nin



Chan Yai Nin

greatly to the atmosphere. In today's modern society everything is fast-paced. Escaping to the serene elegance of this teahouse is therefore all the more appreciated.

The other teahouse I'd like to recommend to you is the Lao She Teahouse on Beijing's West Qianmen Street, a few steps from the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant. Taking tea here, one savours the feeling of nostalgia and of being very Beijing. Many people from other provinces make a point of coming here whenever they visit Beijing. A visit to the teahouse is also on most Beijing tourist programmes. The teahouse started out as a simple "Big Bowl" tea stand which became famous ten years ago. It received its present name from the drama entitled *Teahouse* by famous playwright Lao She.

The interior is of typical Beijing style. Papercuts pasted on the windows as well as the several dozen of wood carved "Eight Immortals Tables" remind people of the ancient custom. On the counter by the gate are "tea plates" listing the brands of tea with names such as Dragon Well, Fuzzy Tips and Silver Chips.

In the front of the tea hall is a theatre. On stage, an actress in a patterned *qipao* (Manchu-style dress) performed an aria of "Tune of Beijing Drum", followed by a few Peking Opera episodes. Every movement and gesture by the actors and actresses had the Peking Opera lovers mesmerised. I learned that since it opened, many famous artists had come here to perform.

I am sure that if you sit in this teahouse, order a good tea and some Beijing snacks, peanuts and melon seeds, you will easily find yourself completely immersed in the special atmosphere of old Beijing. Indeed, I had lived in Beijing for more than 20 years but this time I was here as a visitor. I decided to come back to the place most representative of Beijing traditions to find myself overwhelmed by a sense of nostalgia. My host who is well-informed in the art of tea told me that in the 1930s and 1940s, grand teahouses fell out of fashion in Beijing. Instead three types of medium or small sized teahouses came into being: story telling, Qing - style and chess playing.

The Lao She Teahouse is actually an imitation of the first type of old Beijing. But obviously, it is of a much higher class, and the admission fee is not the same either.



*Photos by Xie Guanghui and
Chan Yat Nin*

*Article by Huang Yanhong
Translated by Huang Youyi*



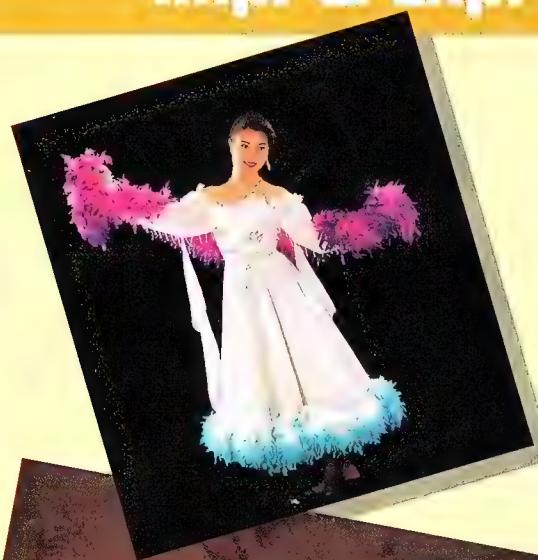
Xie Guanghui



Chan Yat Nin

- Upper Left: The art of the tea ritual performance at the Tea King Palace
- Lower Left: The ancient music gives much pleasure to the customers.
- Upper Right: Every day, Lao She Teahouse stages traditional Beijing-style folk arts
- Middle Right: The Tea King Palace in ancient architectural style

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SICHUAN BAMBOO ARTICLES



There is an ancient saying that people "would rather live without meat than live without bamboo". But I believe it is always wiser to learn how to adapt and make the most of whatever resources are available.

Of all the natural woodland forests, bamboo groves seem to be the best to evoke a strange sense of tranquillity coupled with elegance. The Chinese people have always shown great originality when it comes to making a living, as a common saying goes: "Those living on a mountain live off the mountain, those living near the water live off the water." The Sichuan people naturally have found a way to live off the bamboo which is abundant in their province. The bamboo in Sichuan can be classified into several different varieties: henon, water, nan, mian, lu, black, purple.... From the many different kinds of bamboo, household utensils, ornaments and even works of art have been made. When I

A display of various articles made of bamboo



travelled in Sichuan, I could not help buying souvenir made of bamboo.

I found that household utensils themselves came in a rich variety: fans, baskets, containers, hats, screens, pen-holders, mats, chairs, curtains, chopsticks, coffee tables, candy boxes, clothesracks, basins, ladles, buckets.... All are very popular and can be easily found in households in Sichuan. As for the ornaments made of bam-



Bamboo chopsticks with hollowed-out engravings

boo, they include the famous root carvings, engravings, and bamboo fans.

I was told that the best Sichuan bamboo articles come from Jiang'an where the craftsmen

can produce bamboo handicrafts by carving lions, dragons, phoenixes, figures and landscapes on the surface and the inside layer. Take chopsticks for example. First the engravers carve the patterns on the bamboo and then use a special



A lifelike bust carved from a bamboo root

technique to carve pictures on the inside layer which is no thicker than two millimetres. Such engravings call for exquisite craftsmanship. Apparently, the longer these chopsticks are used, the brighter their natural yellowish colour becomes. They are thus known as "Ivory-like Bamboo Chopsticks". The Jiang'an artists have also developed the art of bamboo inlay and hollowed-out engraving. The effect of the latter is often seen on bamboo chopsticks of which the top end is hollowed out, leaving tiny engraved balls inside.

I brought back a selection of household utensils and ornamental bamboo items, at reasonable prices. For example, a bamboo screen costs a little over 90 yuan, bamboo fans for eighteen yuan each, a bamboo armchair for 30 yuan, an exquisitely carved bamboo pen-holder for only 65 yuan and a pair of chopsticks with hollowed-out engravings costs seven yuan. Bamboo root carving costs 100 yuan.

As people of today are enthusiastic about using things natural and "getting back to nature", a few household items or decorative ornaments made of bamboo might help you bring nature home.

**Photos by Huang Yanhong
Article by M. Leisure
Translated by Xiong Zhenru**

AN ENOUNTER WITH THE PANDA

In southern Sichuan Province the Donghe River flows past Yanjing Township and empties into an area called Dengchi Gully, made famous by a church and one of its Fathers.

In 1839, a French missionary built a Catholic church here and in 1867, the fourth successor, Father David, discovered a giant panda living in the gully and took it as a specimen back to France. This was the first time the world learned of this rare animal's existence. The local people at Dengchi Gully knew this giant panda only as white bear or bamboo bear. Mr. Edwards, the director of the Paris Museum, gave it the name Giant Panda Bear. In 1926, the two sons of American President Roosevelt came to Dengchi Gully to hunt the Giant Panda, and they brought a panda skin back to the United States to be exhibited in the Chicago



Sight of a giant panda early in the morning

Museum. In 1937, the whole world was shocked when an American secretly shipped a live panda out of China. Thus Dengchi Gully, the church and its Father David became known worldwide.

We arrived at Yanjing Town by long-distance bus. Getting off and crossing a bridge, we began the climb up along Dengchi Gully. After walking about three kilometres, we came

to the 14th section of Qingping Village in Yanjing Township. Starting from here, we climbed for about 40 minutes up the mountain before arriving at the church.



Looking down at the Catholic church in Dengchi Gully

A Weather-Beaten Church

Located on a flat piece of mountain land, the church is a grand, wooden structure. Looking down from the mountain, the church blends in well among farmsteads, fields and trees, look-

ing more like a farmer's courtyard surrounded by grey-tiled wooden houses. From the outside, it does not look like a church at all. It was once burnt to the ground, but rebuilt about 100 years ago by the last foreign Father of the church. According to the locals, there were once two crosses on the roof, which were pulled down during the Cultural Revolution.

An Unexpected Encounter

At daybreak the next morning, I heard someone calling, "Who wants to take photos of the Giant Panda?" Excitedly I jumped down from my hammock and asked the bearer of the good news where it was. "In my family's bamboo grove." I hurried back into the room, woke up my friends, grabbed my camera and followed the old man out of the church.

A group of people were already outside the old man's home watching the grove where a Giant Panda was timidly hiding. Around it were a mass of broken bamboo canes and scattered leaves, obviously the fine work of this "State Treasure".

We were very excited, but a bit nervous as well. Adjusting our cameras and flashes, we tiptoed towards it. The light in the grove was very dim, so it was difficult to focus the camera and estimate the settings. The panda was suddenly startled by the flash lights, and it stood up and turned to leave. One of our group was just behind it and in the way of the fleeing panda; he was forced to retreat to the edge of a cliff. He fell backwards over the edge. Fortunately he



After the last service, the Father (first in front) is escorted down the mountain by the villagers.

was held by the dense bushes. Climbing back up, he continued to take pictures, although not yet recovered from the fright.

The panda climbed up to a huge rock, and we followed it. Nearly at the top, I looked up to see the panda, which was well within my reach. It stared at me and then it growled. Scared, I immediately ran away, I dared not even raise my camera!

This time, the panda was really furious. It bounded over, fuming with anger, passing right by me, flashes still popping after it....

Photos & Text by Sunny Wong
Translated by M. Q.



The Amazing Green-Haired Turtle

The Qi Turtle, famous in China since the Tang and Song dynasties, is found in Qizhou, Hubei Province, hometown of the famous Ming-dynasty pharmacologist Li Shizhen. It is characterized by its triangular back bone, green hair and golden lines on its ivory-coloured base shell. Its long, fine, green hair on its shell has also earned it the title of Green-Haired Turtle. It is considered one of the Four Treasures of Qizhou. Today, two professional institutes, the Qi Turtle Research Institute and the Qizhou Four Treasures Centre, are involved in the research of this rare creature.

One weekend I tried to visit the two institutions and found the door slammed in my face. Luckily, in a little lane I found a small shop specializing in Qi Turtles. The manager of the shop was an open-minded, middle-aged woman called Sister Zhang. Two years ago she had given up her former job to breed these green-haired little creatures, selling them to enthusiasts and pharmacists. Her earnings were quite remarkable.

When I met Sister Zhang, she was busy working, changing the tank water for the Qi Turtles, cleaning and combing the green hair on their back. Once clean, the turtles were returned to their basins where they swam leisurely, their green hair floating in the fresh water. When they huddled up, they looked like mosses submerged in water. They looked adorable. There were various transparent jars and basins on the two large wooden shelves in Sister Zhang's little shop, where over 200 Green-Haired Turtles were kept.

From Sister Zhang, I learned that Qi Turtles love to eat small earthworms, fish, shrimps, lean pork, beef, bread, rice and

some greenfeed. In winter they hibernate and don't eat but they do need to be put in places exposed to the sun. They need sunshine in winter but not in summer. The suitable temperature of the water for the turtles is 5-30 °C, and the water must be of pH 6.5 - 7.5, without the ions of sulphur, chloride or copper. If tap water is used, it must be allowed to stand and mature for one week before it is used for the turtles. While changing the water, the turtle's head, feet and neck must be cleaned and their green hair combed, so as to make them look beautiful. Usually, the green-haired turtles are kept in a round, transparent jar in water half of the turtle's length deep.

*Photos and Article by Shan Xiaogang
Translated by Xiong Zhenru*



1. The long hair must be combed often to keep the turtles looking beautiful.
2. Qi Turtles have long green hair on their shells, hence their name "The Green-Haired Turtle".
3. Sister Zhang has over 200 Qi Turtles in her small shop.

Direct flight

Qantas Airlines launched its weekly non-stop service from Sydney to Shanghai recently. Tim Fischer, the Australian deputy prime minister, was one of the passengers on the inaugural flight. He said that the direct flight between Sydney and Shanghai will help promote both trade and tourism between the two countries.

China's Destiny

As the 21st century gets underway, China is "destined to be one of the world's top travel destinations", according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). The growth of China's travel and tourism is expected to be twice the global rate. To meet challenge, China recently formed the China Destination Marketing Council to coordinate travel destinations around the country and to improve service to visitors.

Hong Kong Cable Car

Engineers have begun a feasibility study on building a 10 km cable car system from several outlying islands to Sai Kung in the New Territories. This would be part of a HK\$3 billion project to turn the relatively uninhabited islands into a theme park, featuring a zoo and a marina. However, Whilst the Sai Kung District Development Foundation believes this would revitalise Sai Kung's economy, local residents are concerned that the peacefulness of the area will be ruined.

Endangered species discovered

A group of more than 80 black-necked cranes have been found in Gansu Province, north-west China. Chinese ornithologists studying the Gahai wetlands area discovered the cranes in mid-July. The black-necked crane is the most endangered of the 15 species of cranes that currently exist, with only about 1,000 left in the world.

Rewards for Tree Planters

The Chongqing local government has started a scheme to reward those who make notable contributions to the city's reforestation programme. People who are outstanding tree planters are given a medal and allowed free entrance to parks and tourist spots in Chongqing, the largest industrial city in Sichuan Province.

Foreign Experts

East China's Shandong Province plans to employ 12,500 foreign experts in the coming years as part of its efforts to speed up the pace of economic construction. In the next five years, the province will introduce 100 new projects with foreign involvement, and send 10,000 people to study overseas. One of the country's most developed provinces, Shandong has employed 11,000 experts from 46 countries over the past five years.

New Hotel in Shenyang

Traders Hotel, the ninth member of the Shangri-La Hotel group, opened August 3 in Shenyang, the capital of Northeast China's Liaoning Province. The 592-room hotel is expected to intensify competition among foreign-invested hotels in Shenyang.

Smart cars

More cars – many more cars – are expected in China's future, and ministers are planning how to make these cars smarter and safer.

As a result, some of the world's most advanced cars will be coming to Beijing next April, for the '97 Auto Electronics and Intelligent Transport Exhibition. Exhibits will feature anti-lock braking, air bags, audio and video car accessories, computer-assisted design and automatic traffic management. With China's present level of automotive technology lagging ten years behind the latest innovations, its auto-

mobile industry is looking to bridge the gap by cooperating with world-famous car manufacturers to develop and mass-produce more advanced components.

Machine Tools Star at Shanghai fair

Metal tools stole the limelight at an international exhibition in Shanghai in October.

The event, jointly organised by the Shanghai government and Hannover Messe International, was held at the International Exhibition Centre from October 7-11.

Over the last 15 years, the German firm has helped organise many trade fairs in China. This latest event, the Metal Working China show, had more than 120 exhibitors displaying their results from business cooperation in machine tools. Some of the latest technologies were on display, including computers and robots designed for all kinds of machine tools and metal products manufacture.

Growing market

China's home electrical appliance market is expected to surpass that of the United States within the next decade, according to a senior executive at Whirlpool Corporation, a US manufacturer of home appliances. The statement was made at a two-day exhibition held by Whirlpool's Beijing joint venture.

Shandong's Vegetable Exports Take Off

Farmers in Shandong, no longer satisfied with subsistence farming, have transformed their fields into market gardens. They have invested in technology to increase production and have introduced foreign vegetables, specifically with the export market in mind. They have also successfully experimented with greenhouse technology to ensure a year-round supply of produce, and are now looking at going into food

processing and packaging. With their success as a model, five surrounding provinces have followed suit, each devoting 20,000 hectares of farmland to intensive vegetable production.

Panda Fossil Discovered

A Chinese farmer has discovered the 10,000 year-old skull of a panda in Nayong County, Guizhou. He has donated it to the provincial museum, and has said that he is willing to show researchers where the fossil was found so that they can investigate further.

Exploit Northwest's Rich Resources

Northwest China is the heart of China's natural resources, containing oil, natural gas, coal and over 100 other mineral reserves. The central government of China, keen to increase energy production to meet demand, will invest billions of yuan in the next ten years on exploration and extraction. The region's coal reserve makes up 38 per cent of China's total, with oil reserves of 400 million tonnes, and natural gas accounting for 72 per cent of the national total.

Mining Fair

China will hold a mining machinery and products fair in the Central China city of Wuhan from October 28-31. Over 1,000 members of the China Mining Association and 10,000 enterprises, customers and sales agents will attend the fair. China has more than 9,800 large and medium-sized mining enterprises, and 28,000 related mining firms.

Service Centre

Shantou, one of China's Special Economic Zones, has opened a foreign investment management and service centre in an effort to improve its investment environment. The centre will offer services for overseas investors,

including investment consultation, project approval, and requisition of land.

Forests Flourish

China's forest parks attracted 60 million visitors last year, boosting the tourism industry's income by more than 500 million yuan.

There are 750 forest parks in the country, covering 6.3 million hectares of land. The parks cover all types of forest landscape, such as Tianchi Lake in the snow-covered mountains of Xinjiang, the desert of Yangguan Pass in Gansu and a glacier in Hailuogou in Sichuan.

Forest tourism has developed since the early 1980s, when forest parks were first established in various provinces and autonomous regions for sightseeing, camping, hiking and scientific research.

Border Trade Expo

The 1996 Border Commodity Trade Fair was held October 8-10 in Pingxiang, near the border between China and Vietnam in Guangxi. More than 3,000 business representatives were there from more than 30 countries and regions, including the United States, France, Japan, Singapore, Canada, Vietnam, Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Medicine Centre

Construction of the East China Medicine Trade and Information Centre has started in Hefei, capital of Anhui Province. Covering 40 hectares of land and providing 3,000 stands, the centre is expected to be the largest of its kind in Asia.

Tropical Resort

A new resort on the shores of Yalong Bay in southern Hainan Province, called Gloria Resort Sanya, opened recently. With an investment of US\$48 million, it is one of the leading

resorts of its type in China. The resort is managed by Gloria International Hotels, a group with representative offices in Hong Kong and Beijing.

Mysterious Slope

A mysterious slope which freezes over in summer and releases steam in winter has attracted a flood of tourists, geologists and meteorologists. The slope is located five kilometres south of Anyang in Henan Province. Scientists have so far found no explanation for the phenomenon. The slope begins to ice over when spring comes; the ice becomes thicker when the temperature rises and in midsummer expands to cover an area of 600 square metres. The ice begins to thaw in mid-autumn, and by the time winter comes, the slope has steam rising from it.

The Highest Pipeline

A 189-kilometre-long pipeline from Qinghai Oilfield to Golmud City was put into operation recently. With an average altitude of 3,000 metres above sea level, it is the world's highest gas pipeline. The pipeline was built at a cost of 250 million yuan (US\$30 million) and has an annual gas transport capacity of 800 million cubic metres.

Tibetan Village Thrives on Border Trade

Asam, a village of just 18 families in Yadong County, southern Tibet, has become a well-known trading centre. Located close to the borders that China shares with Bhutan and Sikkim, Asam used to be a port of entry. Local residents have now resumed the old patterns of bartering, with the Bhutanese bringing in local specialities and taking back consumer goods made in China. Exchanges of goods exceeded 3.6 million yuan (US\$433,000) last year.



Shanghai Hansen Import & Export Co., Ltd. is established in accordance with the system of modern enterprises from the formed Shanghai Handkerchiefs Import & Export Corporation approved by the Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation of the People's Republic of China and registered in Shanghai Industry & commerce Administrative Bureau.

With a market oriented approach and laying prime concern on trade, the company takes advantages of its capital and commands support of its industry. Under the company, there are 10 wholly-owned subsidiary companies, 3 holding subsidiary companies, 5 overseas enterprises, a new product developing centre, a real estate development & management company, a motor repairing centre and a hotel. The total assets amount of 600 million yuan and the net capital amounts to 150 million yuan. The business scope has been extended to hardware, light industrial products, stationery & sport products and textile products besides all kinds of handkerchiefs, shawls, scarves, mufflers, neckties, towels, bed sheets, threads and laces, knitwear, yarn-dyed, bleached-dyed and printed clothes, etc. the annual increase of its foreign exchange earnings averaged 25%. The export earnings for 1995 amounted to 100 million US dollars, an increase of 3 times over its initial.

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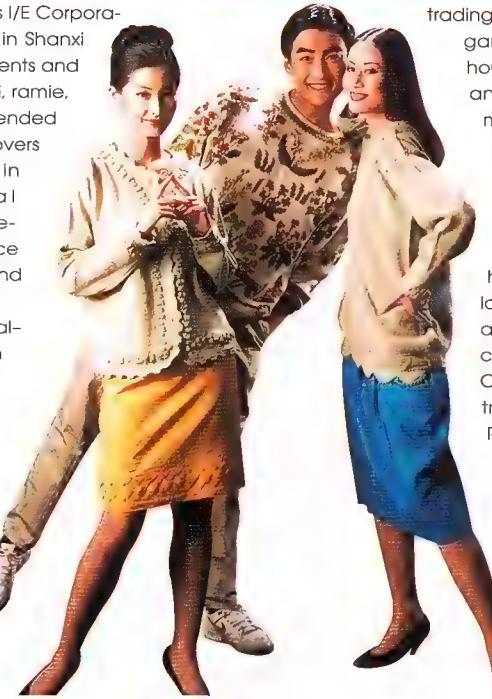




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Shanxi Garments Knitwears I/E Corporation is the biggest corporation in Shanxi which deals in all kinds of garments and knitwears made of cotton, wool, ramie, polyester, leather and other blended fabrics; whose business also covers the Group-3 commodities in machinery, chemical industry, light industry, cereal and oil, native produce and animal by-products and arts and crafts as well.

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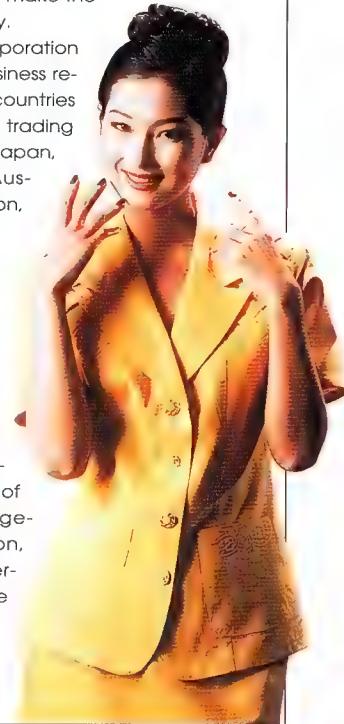


trading companies, one transportation team, two garment joint ventures and duty-free warehouse, liaison office and warehouse in Tianjin and Shenzhen. Meanwhile, dozens of garment, Knitwear and woolmaking factories support us as our cooperative partners.

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At present our corporation have established the business relationship with dozens of countries and areas setting up nine trading companies in America, Japan, Canada, Germany, Australia, Thailand, Cameroon, Russia and Hong Kong.

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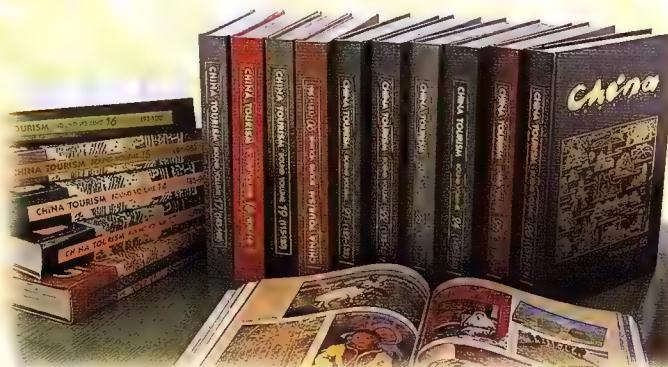
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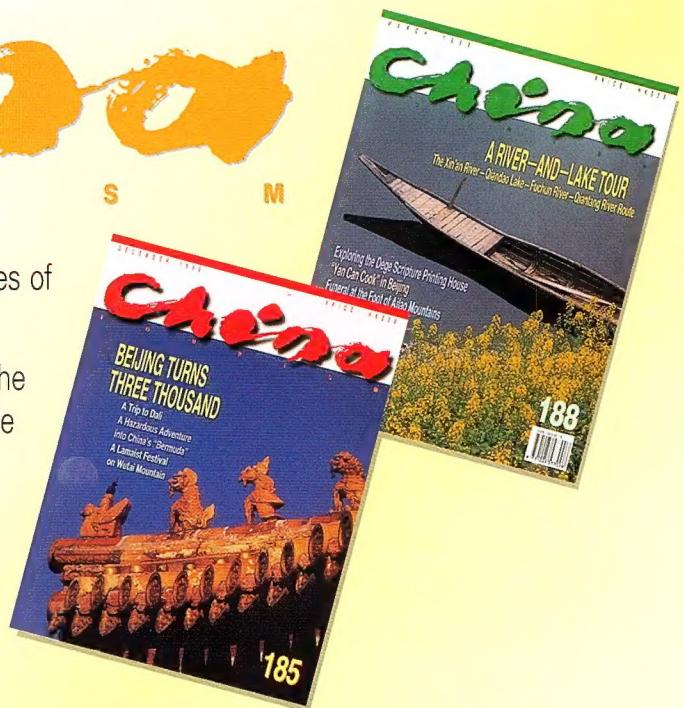
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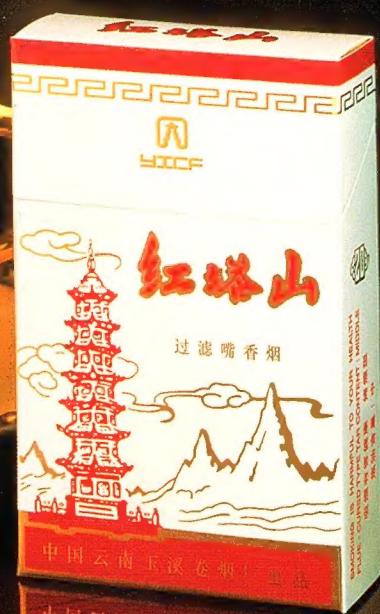
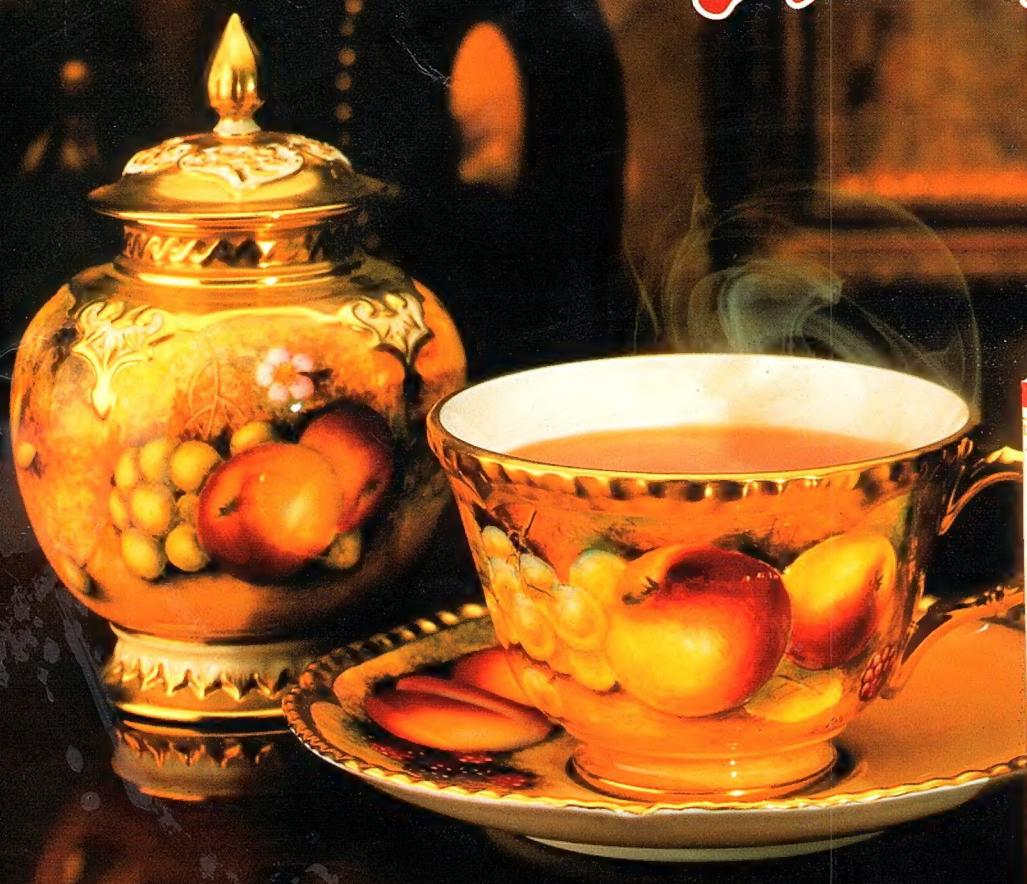
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